

Canadian Parents for French, 44th Annual General Meeting
Sunday, October 18, 2020, 12:00 to 1:30pm
Meeting Held online via Zoom

Voting Delegates in Attendance:

- National Board of Directors:
President, Nancy McKeraghan; Vice-President, Derrek Bentley; Treasurer, Marc Gobeil; Secretary, Wendy Carr;
Directors at Large: Kate Peters, Richard Slevinsky, Diane Tijman.
- Branch Presidents:
Victoria Wishart, AB; Maggie Hawkes, NT; Janet Loseth, SK; Michael Hudon, MB; Denise Massie, ON; Greg Keith,
NB; Janet Claes, NS; Larry Vaters, NL
- Regrets: Robyn Gallant, PE, Nancy Taylor, BC-YK.

Chair of AGM – Nancy McKeraghan, President, CPF National Board of Directors

1. Call to order

- Meeting begins at 12:11pm.
- President, Nancy McKeraghan, welcomes delegates and attendees to the 44th Canadian Parents for French Annual General Meeting.
- President completes the land acknowledgment and reviews the rules of order. All in attendance may speak to a motion. Only voting delegates will be able to vote on motions. All voting delegates asked to ratify their non-support by indicating the word ‘nay’ in the Zoom chat or with a ‘thumbs down’. If making or seconding a motion, they are to unmute and say their name. As chair of the meeting, the President will only vote in the event of a tie. According to our Chief Electoral Officer, the total number of voting delegates in attendance is 15.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

- President asks for any changes or additions to the agenda – no changes requested.

MOTION TO ADOPT AGENDA

- Richard Slevinsky (CPF National) moves to adopt the 44th Annual General Meeting agenda, seconded by Wendy Carr (CPF National).

CARRIED

3. Minutes of the AGM of October 20, 2019 in Gatineau, QC

- Minutes approved from the October 20, 2019 Annual General Meeting accepted at National Board Directors meeting in January 2021.

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

- No business arising from the past AGM.

MOTION TO ACCEPT MINUTES

- Moved by Victoria Wishart (CPF AB) to accept the minutes of the 43rd Annual General Meeting, seconded by Janet Loseth (CPF SK).

CARRIED

5. Reports

a) President Report – Nancy McKeraghan

- President has completed 2nd term as National Board member and 3rd year as President. Reflects on organization's great progress during that time, such as standardization of projects and reports across the country; cooperative and collaborative work of Council of Presidents and Council of Executive Directors; State of FSL Education Reports; recognition of CPF as a valuable organization evidenced by its being a full partner on consultation of FSL issues such as the modernization of the Official Languages Act; increased communication with Chapters; leadership initiatives; updated policies and bylaws and new strategic plan.
- Biggest challenge of the past year was the global pandemic. This led to cancelled Annual FSL Awareness Breakfast in Ottawa and *Concours*, remote committee and board meetings, closed offices, online FSL classes, and parents having to make choices about children's FSL education with limited resources. Despite this, CPF demonstrated its resilience as *Concours* and Summer Camps went virtual, staff worked on projects remotely, AGMs, boards and committees went online, and new tutoring program was launched.
- 2020 virtual Network Conference demonstrated that we are all in this together and can achieve many things when working with like-minded people. We are pleased to report over 300 delegates participating in 85 workshops sessions. Stressed the need of spreading the word about CPF and getting more people involved.
- Issues surrounding FSL programs remain. There are still issues that challenge full access to FSL programming, as they are still not mandated and questioned yearly by school boards. Some of these were exacerbated by changes caused by the pandemic. The need for advocacy has never been greater.
- President has been humbled by leaders and volunteers across country. Much work to be done, but with their help and passion, she remains confident in CPF's ability to make a difference. She said it was an honour to work with members, Council of Presidents, and Council of Executive Directors, and especially thanked the National Board and Staff.

MOTION TO RECEIVE PRESIDENT REPORT

- Larry Vaters (CPF NL) moves to receive President Report, seconded by Marc Gobeil (CPF National).

b) Executive Director Report – Nicole Thibault

- This is Executive Director's 6th AGM report. She remains passionate about CPF.
- Began by reflecting on past year pre-pandemic: FSL Awareness Breakfast, launch of Stronger Together Linguistic Duality poster, and launch of Linguistic Duality Network were well-received; CPF very present in Canadian Heritage consultations on the modernization of Official Languages Act, *Bonjour my Friend* Caravan tour and film premiere; Network Leaders and Governance Event in October allowed attendees to see the 5-year strategic plan and work on risk mitigation, succession planning, funding diversification, and philanthropy development.
- Beginning of pandemic in March offered opportunity to test how far CPF had come in the past 5 years. Key reflection: CPF is not same organization it was 5 years ago. CPF has navigated pandemic smoothly, enhanced a cross-Canada network, instilled communication, published annual reports, offered training and support, seen collaboration between Branches and National. This time of reflection and opportunity allows CPF to ask how it may be more inclusive going forward.
- Executive Director states she is proud of CPF National Board of Directors and thanks National Staff. Thanks Branch Executive Directors as individuals and as a collective and recognizes efforts of Council of Presidents. Thanks financial supporters, Canadian Heritage for its commitment to second language learning.
- Closes by saying there is a buzz about CPF. It is growing not only its scope but also its commitment to core principles and strong oversight.

MOTION TO RECEIVE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

- Michael Hudon (CPF MB) moves for Executive Director Report to be accepted, seconded by Denise Massie (CPF ON).

CARRIED

c) Treasurer Report – Kate Peters

- Due to technical difficulties, order changed: Auditor presentation recording played first.
- Auditor presentation / Audited Financial Statement 2019/2020 – Pre-recorded video presentation by CPF auditor Marc Brazeau from Marcil Lavallée shared with delegates.
- Kate Peters shares verbal report for 2019/2020 fiscal year.
- Kate Peters thanks Cathy Stone, CPF National Director of Operations, and Nicole Thibault, CPF National Executive Director, for their hard work and commitment, as well as in diversifying funding, and thanks Canadian Heritage for its ongoing financial support.
- Kate Peters opens the floor to questions.
 - Richard Slevinsky asked if the Board was worried about anything financially in the near future. Kate Peters says the impacts of Covid are not reflected in this report, but that next year will reflect its impact. She feels that potential risks are being mitigated through careful planning and thanks National staff for its ongoing work in this regard.
- Recommends appointment of auditor, Marcil Lavallée for 2020/2021.

MOTION TO ACCEPT AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

- Diane Tijman (CPF National) moves for the audited financial statements to be accepted as received, seconded by Victoria Wishart (CPF AB).

CARRIED

MOTION TO ACCEPT TREASURER REPORT

- Richard Slevinsky (CPF National) moves for the Treasurer Report to be accepted, seconded by Larry Vaters (CPF NL).

CARRIED

MOTION TO APPROVE APPOINTMENT OF THE AUDITOR

- Derrek Bentley (CPF National) moves to approve the appointment of the auditor, Marcil Lavallée, for the 2020/2021 year, seconded by Wendy Carr (CPF National).

CARRIED

Standing Committee Reports

Ad Hoc Committees – Reports posted on website.

- The President on behalf of the Network thanks the Strategic Planning Committee members and FSL Research Working Group.

6. Bylaw Committee Report – Nancy McKeraghan, Chair

- Nancy McKeraghan presents the report to delegates and attendees.
- The Committee had a busy year, having met several times and updating National policies, which have been posted on the website.
- Updated policies allow for more transparency, country-wide consistency, and accountability to funders and the public.
- Committee kept a record of areas where amendments were needed. These are before Annual General Meeting today for approval. Thanks to Rena Prefontaine, Diane Tijman, and Nicole Thibault for their hard work.
- Opens the floor to questions – no questions asked.

MOTION TO ACCEPT BYLAWS COMMITTEE REPORT

- Diane Tijman (CPF National) moves for the Bylaws Committee Report to be accepted, seconded by Maggie Hawkes (CPF NWT).

CARRIED

7. Approval of the Proposed Amendments to the CPF National Bylaw No. 1

- Proposed amendments to Bylaw No. 1 were posted on website for Network review. Prior to Annual General Meeting, proposed amendments brought forward were made to everyone's approval.
- Opens the floor to questions on amendments – no questions asked.
- The motion to approve Bylaw document as a whole must receive two-thirds majority to be accepted.

MOTION TO ACCEPT BYLAW AMENDMENTS AS A WHOLE

- Wendy Carr (CPF National) moves for the amendments to the Bylaws as a whole to be accepted, seconded by Diane Tijman (CPF National).
- Denise Massie (CPF ON) moves to defer approval of amendments due to insufficient notice given. Nancy McKeraghan demonstrates that sufficient notice was given.
- Denise Massie (CPF ON) moves to divide the question to vote on individual amendments. She requests 142.1, 141.3 & 165 to be removed. Nicole Thibault (CPF National) suggested removing these three areas, voting on the rest.
- Nancy McKeraghan asks whether there is agreement to pull those sections. Wendy Carr and Diane Tijman remove their motion of approval of document as a whole.

NEW MOTION: AMEND MOTION TO ACCEPT BYLAW AMENDMENTS AS A WHOLE

- Wendy Carr (CPF National) moves to amend motion for the Bylaw amendments as a whole, seconded by Diane Tijman (CPF National).

CARRIED

NEW MOTION: REMOVE SECTIONS 142.1, 141.3 & 165 FOR FURTHER CONSULTATION.

- Denise Massie (CPF ON) moves to remove sections 142.1, 141.3 & 165 for further consultation, seconded by Greg Keith (CPF NB).
- Two-thirds majority needed to do so.

CARRIED

MOTION TO APPROVE BALANCE OF BYLAWS AS PRESENTED.

- Wendy Carr (CPF National) moves for the balance of the Bylaws to be accepted, seconded by Diane Tijman (CPF National).

CARRIED

- Nancy McKeraghan concludes by saying that Bylaws Committee took the process very seriously. The Committee will act promptly on feedback given for the three removed sections. Thanks the voting delegates for their commitment.

8. Nominating Committee Report – Marc Gobeil, Co-Chair

- Marc Gobeil (CPF National) presents the report to delegates and attendees. The 2019-2020 Committee was made up of Kate Peters (CPF National), Marc Gobeil (CPF National), Branch President Larry Vaters (CPF NL), and member at large, Rima Majaess (CPF NS).
- Nominating Committee was tasked with filling three vacancies for the CPF National Board. Committee members reviewed mandate and workplan and in March, a call for interest was advertised and circulated. Nominations were received from three incumbent directors; no other expressions of interest were received. The Nominating Committee revised an evaluation matrix and used it to review nominations. 3 candidates were endorsed and selected: Derrek Bentley (CPF National), Nancy McKeraghan (CPF National) and Richard Slevinsky (CPF National). Endorsement and ratification to take place today at the Annual General Meeting.
- Nominating Committee launched a nomination process for 2 Officer positions in summer 2020 through a communication to voting delegates. Two nominations were received, one for role of President and another for Vice-President for the National Board. Derrek Bentley (CPF National) accepted nomination for President and Kate Peters (CPF National) for Vice-President. She recused herself from the Nominating Committee at that time. Voting delegates confirmed their support. The next step is to ratify these positions.

- Marc Gobeil opened the floor to questions – no questions asked.

MOTION TO ACCEPT NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

- Denise Massie (CPF ON) affirms Nominating Committee Report, seconded by Victoria Wishart (CPF AB).

CARRIED

9. Ratification of the Election of the Directors to the National Board 2020/2021

- Michael Tryon (Executive Director, CPF AB), serving as Chief Electoral Officer.
- Affirm decision to accept Board of Directors for 2020/2021: Nancy McKeraghan, Derrek Bentley, Kate Peters, Wendy Carr, Richard Slevinsky, Diane Tijman, and Marc Gobeil.

MOTION TO RATIFY BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2020/2021

- Larry Vaters (CPF NL) moves to ratify Board of Directors for 2020/2021, seconded by Janet Loseth (CPF SK).

CARRIED

10. Ratification of the Election of the 2 Officer Positions (President, Vice-President) to the National Board of Directors 2020/2021

- Michael Tryon stated no further nominations were received, and the two individuals have accepted their nominations. Support for two candidates was confirmed by electronic ballot. They will now confirm support for Derrek Bentley (CPF National) to serve as President and Kate Peters (CPF National) to serve as Vice-President for 2020-2021.

MOTION TO RATIFY THE ELECTION OF THE 2 OFFICER POSITIONS

- Marc Gobeil (CPF National) moves to accept Derrek Bentley to serve as President and Kate Peters as Vice-President, seconded by Diane Tijman (CPF National).

CARRIED

11. Presentation of the National Board of Directors and Officers 2020/2021

- 2020/2021 National Board of Directors are congratulated.

Derrek Bentley, President
Kate Peters, Vice-President
Wendy Carr, Director
Richard Slevinsky, Director

Diane Tijman, Director
Marc Gobeil, Director
Nancy McKeraghan, Director

12. Recognition of Service, Presentations to Volunteers and Staff

- National Board of Directors honours longstanding staff members for their support and commitment to CPF and the promotion of FSL education throughout the years.
- Canadian Parents for French thanks:
 - Volunteer: Rena Prefontaine, Outgoing President (CPF MB) – Recognizing 10 years of dedicated and outstanding service.
 - Staff: Rebecca Lancaster, Executive Director (CPF NS) – Recognizing 15 years of dedicated and loyal service & Cathy Stone, Director of Operations (CPF National) – Recognizing 30 years of dedicated and loyal service.
 - Wendy Carr recognizes Nancy McKeraghan for her term as President and is pleased she is staying on the Board as a Director – Recognized Nancy’s enormous contribution to growth and direction of CPF Network.

13. Questions or Comments

- President opens the floor for any questions and comments; none received.

14. Adjournment

- Final comment from Nancy McKeraghan (CPF National) recognizing the hard work of the CPF volunteers, members, and Network.
- 44th Annual General Meeting adjourned at 1:31pm.

Submitted by Debbie Murphy, CPF National Board Support

Reviewed by Wendy Carr, Secretary, National Board of Directors