

MEETING MINUTES  
FINE ARTS COUNCIL EXECUTIVE  
SATURDAY MAY 24, 2014, 9:00 am  
24 Hidden Park NW

Present: David Fettes, Renee Dowling, Tammy Watt, Melinda Rasmussen, Kathy Robinson, Katherine Wells, Gayla Worden, Mike Wheeler, Andreas Berko, Stacy Richards, Greg Jeffery, Jonathan Teghtmeyer, Gaye McVean, John Poulsen.

Regrets: Diane O'Rourke, Jennifer Eisermann, Helen Chimiri-Russell, Judy Smallwood, Samuel Yamamoto, Shannon Panchuk.

1. Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 9:35 am.
2. Welcome
  - Sam will be arriving late (lunch) as he is in Red Deer for the provincial festival
  - John will be arriving late because he suffers from allergies that prohibit him from being at a pet-household for an extended time.
3. Approval of Agenda: motion made by Mike Wheeler to approve minutes, carried.
4. Minutes of Previous Meeting: no minutes were made available.
5. Treasurer's Report: Melinda Rasmussen
  - Currently at \$????
  - Expenses include web maintenance, payments for arts events, committee meetings, gifts for logos and poster for conference.
  - Materials will be sent to ATA.
  - Expense reports need to be made for January 2014 meeting.
6. Secretary's Report: Diane absent so no report given.
7. Committee Reports (as presented)
  - President:
    1. Busy time. Conference 2015 briefly mentioned.
    2. Fort MacMurray has approached the FAC about a regional council.
    3. New Zealand curriculum introduced, now being tested, locally developed, with open-ended questions as primary assessment.
    4. Year-end reports need to be written by July 2014.
    5. Other items will come up in further points for this meeting.
- ii. Music Rep.
  1. We do not have a Music Rep in place.
- iii. Art Rep.: Tammy Watt

1. AFA art index. Tammy is concerned that they are not holding their end of the bargain. Tammy has teachers waiting to pilot their lesson plans but they are not ready. She has been persistent about contacting them. Spreadsheet with expenses to date attached to Art Rep report.
2. Calgary art exhibition in February 2014 was a big success. Thank you to Julie from CBE. Lots of conversation generated and Tammy received a great deal of positive feedback. Some books were sold and there are a few remaining. Suggested that we have them displayed at the conference in October. Stacey mentioned that her father is a graphic designer if it is expensive to produce these books but we print them through the ATA at a reasonable rate. Big thanks to Gaye and Gayla's daughter for their assistance in this effort. Tammy would like to include part of the book text in A Fine FACTA.

iv. Drama Rep: Mike Wheeler

1. Mike has learned how to blog. Has had some success and has put up three blog posts including his introduction, some convention notes. Some people have come to him and have given him suggestions for what they would like to have from him with regards to support.
2. Gaye asked him to promote the conference to his drama contacts.
3. See report for additional details.

v. Dance Rep: Stacey Richards

1. Has been working on a blog and is developing a list of dance contacts. Still a small list but is adding people once a month. Has had requests for lesson plans to post to the blog. Wants to collect information from showcases in the province. Looks promising that there are great dance sessions at convention and she is trying to promote these.
2. Has been approached by instructors from the U of C who is looking for guest choreographers for Dance Montage and instructors. Information is on the blog.
3. When our blogs are posted to, they automatically post to our Twitter account. A discussion was had about Twitter and how to use. A discussion was had about blogs and how to promote Twitter at the conference.
4. A conversation had about whether we should put email addresses up on our blogs or if we should try to protect them from bots.

vi. CARFAC: Gaye McVean

1. CARFAC is essentially focussing on the conference instead of PD here. The conference committee is the CARFAC committee. This year's Music Conference is on the same weekend so we are trying to focus on elementary music. We have a lot of variety in the presenters and we have raised the price this year; we think there is a lot of value in this. We need to get people there.

2. Some posters were brought to put up. They should have been sent to all schools and the CSR would have received it. Also brought little flyers to pass out to interested teachers.
3. Executive members will be able to register for free with a special code. People need to tell Gaye that they are coming and they will probably have more rooms that they really need because they are pre-booked. They will honour the special rate beyond the conference; executive members can stay a day later at the special rate if they would like to. Executive members will come up Wednesday and there will be a meeting on Thursday during the day. Executive members will have to submit their principal's names and school information to David so he can send letters of release.
4. The deficit from previous year(s) will be erased if we get good attendance at this conference.
5. We are trying to save costs for previous meetings as much as we can.
6. Question asked about price for poster and postage costs. The \$400 is for cost of mailing to all the schools.
7. Our lunch costs will be less due to some meeting scheduling. We are looking forward to the food at the hotel.
8. We are trying to include our presenters' Twitter accounts when tweeting and they are retweeting our posts.
9. Some questions about GST accounts for artists and speakers. Gaye will need to ask Didi about this. There may be a standard form that needs to be submitted.
10. We are encouraging Saturday-only teachers to come to the banquet the night before.

vii. EARFAC: Judy Smallwood

1. Judy not present.

viii. SARFAC: Samuel Yamamoto

1. Sam, not present, is a music teacher from Lethbridge and is new to the position. David has not met Sam but we will need to assist Sam to transfer over account information from Nancy (former chair).
2. There is a large arts community in Lethbridge and Sam has been talking with the group there.
3. Question about student rate for conference and about if we advertise to the faculties of education. University reps have brought students in the past but this has been an issue because students may have felt compelled to attend.

ix. FINE FACTA Editor: Renee Dowling, Shannon Panchuk (not present)

1. Renee mentioned that Shannon sent a report.
2. They are trying to make A Fine FACTA more "user-friendly" with more lesson plans, websites, and books. Articles will include integration with other topic areas.
3. A discussion will be had about the cover.

4. Has been a challenge to get submissions; teachers have been contacted but teachers are not always punctual about their articles.
  5. Next issue will come out in the fall, before the conference. Submissions due June 1, 2014.
  6. Apps may also be included. There have been a few articles rejected because they promote a certain business but if we are promoting it, it is ok.
- x. U of Lethbridge: John Poulsen
1. Funding cutbacks have resulted in a rethinking of the program at the U of L. University has provided an attractive retirement package and 13 faculty took it. Six still remaining to be unfilled. They have been using retired teachers but there will still be overload due to committee work doubling and the other requirements of teaching and research. U of L wants more students to come for education and are enrolling more students than ever before. Class sizes will increase from 36 to 40. Other groupings (PS1 and teaching seminar groups) of 12 will be increased to 20. Primary problem is placements at schools for student teachers.
  2. David brought up letter regarding funding cuts at U of A and wondered if it should be forwarded also to U of L. Jonathan said it should have specific details for each university.
- xi. U of Alberta: Cathy Robinson
1. Budget cuts at university are affecting the teachers who want to focus on fine arts. Teachers will have to take fewer courses (math and LA are only required). No budget for sessional instructors; the university wants to focus on current faculty and increase the number of students in the courses. This will result in less hands-on approach and more of a lecture-based environment. The combined BMus and BEd is still in place.
  2. Graduate student numbers are still healthy. Growing numbers of online courses available also to all students in the province. A full summer program in Orff and Kodaly are still offered. No graduate art courses are coming this year. Miriam Cooley is retiring and they may not replace this position.
  3. Some discussion about the implications of these cuts in the light of the changes (Inspiring Education) going through the province currently – may affect the quality of teachers graduating. Hopefully people will speak out about this. Students are upset and the word may get out. David and Jonathan discussed things that they could do to help generate discussion about this. They will work with Cathy on this.
- xii. U of Calgary: Jennifer Eisermann
1. Not present.
- xiii. Alberta Education: Katherine Wells
1. Curriculum redesign. Alberta Ed is partnering with ARPDC to hold discussion on foundational pieces of curriculum redesign such

as competency indicators, literacy and numeracy benchmarks. General public is invited to give feedback. List of dates and cities provide to executive to help us participate. Some dates have passed but there may be opportunities for people to get involved still.

2. In conjunction with curriculum redesign is the partnerships with school boards to design curriculum. School boards have been asked to develop ways that the curriculum might look (curriculum development and management application). People can go and see what is being developed and there is a place to offer feedback. People can create a public account. We are limited in what we can see and do until the school board gives us permission to look.
3. David, Tammy and Lindy were at an art/science redesign meeting the other night where they developed some ideas for outcomes for art. Having an account on the CDMA will allow groups to be part of the discussion. The FAC needs to be part of this. There are four partners and each lead has partnered with various school boards and stakeholders. We are not sure how the invitation to participate is being presented to the other specialist councils.
4. David will look into getting FAC involved in this process. He asked who the boards are that are involved. Edmonton Public and Catholic are developing K-3, 4-6 are CBE, 7-9 is Black Gold (with CBE involved), 10-12 is CBE. Other school divisions are involved as partners with the lesser partners.
5. Timelines: prototyping process goes Jan-Dec 2014. Implementation was set for 2016 but this doesn't seem realistic at this point.
6. Greg brought up concerns about implementation. This year is just for feedback and we will hear more about this in the future after the feedback process has been completed.

xiv. AFA: Helen Chimiri-Russell

1. Not present.

xv. Staff Advisor: Jonathan Teghtmeyer

1. We need speakers for the curriculum sessions at Beginning Teachers Conference. Would be good to have multiple strands. Executive should think about people that would be good for this around the fall. Interested people should submit their intent to David, who will forward it on to the ATA.
2. Cathy suggested that this may be an opportunity to get courses generated for generalist teachers who want to focus more on certain arts subject areas. Could be 4-5 times over weekends. Jonathan brought up concerns over the process.
3. Factotum has changed for us; it is now Galyene Schreiber.
4. Michael brought up specialist councils at Beginning Teachers Conference. Jonathan explained that Friday is general presentations like classroom management. Saturday is more

curriculum areas and includes the specialist councils for teachers to choose from.

5. Specialist Council booths just operate on Saturday.

xvi.

PEC Liaison: Greg Jeffery

1. May has had two significant events: Task Force on Teaching Excellence recommendations that has caused upset in the ATA. This includes removal of administrators from ATA and other teacher evaluation responsibilities. Association was not represented on the Task Force but some teachers were. Concerns over this Task Force not being as “arm’s length” as it was supposed to be; chair of committee seen at minister’s office regularly. Greg mentioned that his MLA has contacted him for information about the Task Force and the caucus seems to be getting “uncomfortable”. Eight political resolutions made at last ASA, top being that the ATA has lost confidence in the minister of education.
2. Budget talks at ARA – fees not going up. Investment year has been successful. A contribution of 1.3 million was expected to be made but it turns out it is not in deficit at this point but is in surplus. ATA is planning a media campaign with the surplus. Rest went into special emergency fund.
3. Midst of campaign right now, 30 second spots on television.
4. Blue ribbon panel formed on inclusive education last fall. Recommendations will come to provincial council in June with a release of results in September 2014.
5. Let any teachers you can know that they may be contacted by RA Malatest a research firm that has been contracted to do a study on teacher workload. This is part of the legislated requirements. Teachers will be asked to track their time over a week’s period. ATA is on side with this and want teachers to participate.
6. Regarding teacher evaluations and “bad teachers”. Association can convene a hearing with the superintendent if a teacher’s performance is in question. This has been in place since 2009 but has never been used. The ATA does prosecute “bad” teachers given the opportunity. Regarding discipline process, the association is closely monitoring the performance of members. Requests have been made for transparency of this process and the ATA does provide this information, if requested.
7. Some discussion on what it means to be a “bad” teacher. The TQS is the baseline for quality teaching. Superintendent is responsible for this process, with the principal monitoring their staff members at the school level. That teachers are not being evaluated is a myth. The current process allows principals to evaluate at any time. Why should we wait every five years to evaluate a “bad” teacher? ATA is worried that principal are going to become more HR rather than principal teachers. The principals would most want to be involved

with learning, rather than staffing responsibilities. Minister is changing gears in his messaging regarding this. The ATA has been asking for this; in reality the ATA has been asking about a way to track professional learning rather than evaluation (formalized record keeping of PD). An issue with the five year evaluations is that it is also referred to as recertification. An issue is that there can be a problem in cases of personality conflicts.

8. What the Task Force Means for Us publication. Some complaints have been made about the use of WTF on the cover. This was done so that younger teachers would pick it up.
9. Teachers are asked to contact the MLA. If you call and they cannot speak, you can tell them that you want to register your disappointment in the issue.
10. Please go to [inspiring.education.alberta.ca](http://inspiring.education.alberta.ca) to give recommendations on a survey regarding Inspiring Education.
11. Pensions: attacks on pensions. Many colleagues in support staff are also affected. Did not affect teachers but the attitude toward pensions is worrying. Publications will be put out to explain why pensions matter. In ~1936 a deal was made with government, a salary increase was waived to create a pension plan. Need teachers to see the value in pensions. Discussion on the particulars of pensions and the suggested reforms.
12. Some items from Task Force that are positive: internship/mentorship proposal sounds very promising. Other articles are pointed out in what the Task Force Got Right.

xvii. Motion to accept reports made by Tammy Watt. Carried.

8. Business

- a. Constitution: Jonathan Teghtmeyer
  - a. A couple changes required. Also have made a motion for a generalist but hasn't been effected yet. Need to arrange details for if a position becomes vacant in the middle of a term.
  - b. Replacement of executive committee members. Jonathan read some of the sections from other ATA documents as a model for what we can add to our constitution.
  - c. Motion made by Gayla Worden to provide notice of motion that the following changes will be made to the constitution at the next AGM in October 2014: [INSERT THE WORDING FROM JONATHAN HERE]. Motion carried.
    - i. POINT A:
    - ii. POINT B:
    - iii. POINT C: Any member of the executive who resigns their position in writing or is unable to carry out their duties shall have their position deemed vacant. The position may be filled by a member appointed by executive to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term.
  - d. Discussions were invited around the points read by Jonathan and the election timing for the generalist arts teacher.
    - b. Policy manual
    - . This item tabled until next meeting.
  - c. Beginning teacher conferences: David Fettes

. We need presenters and presence at our booth in Edmonton and Calgary. Last Saturday in September (Edmonton) and first Saturday in October (Calgary). There is money budgeted for this. We cannot raffle a sub for a day at the conference but we cannot do this anymore. We are considering giving free conference registration. Another possibility is to give free membership in the FAC. Motion is recommended because it is a policy decision. Gaye McVean moved that we raffle off beginning teachers, at the Beginning Teachers Conference, a one year membership to the FAC (10 in Edmonton, 10 in Calgary, for a total of 20 memberships). Carried.

a. Michael asked about the booth at the conference. We have a display and some table space.

d. Conference 2014

. See CARFAC item for more information about this.

e. Conference 2015: David Fettes

. Discussion has been had with English LA specialist council. Once face to face and a couple of phone meetings. They don't like Helms Briscoe (meeting procurement organization). Membership has presented some of their desires for the next conference. Suggesting Delta Edmonton South for 2015 for Thursday evening, Friday, and then ending Saturday afternoon. David thinks we can work with them, despite our differences. They have suggested Robert Kelly as a fine arts person that they would like to see. Gaylene would like to be part of the next conversation (our factotum and the staff advisor for ELA council).

a. We have talked with social studies council previously but David doesn't feel that it would work. Some discussion over the space requirements for both groups to get together. They had suggested River Cree Casino but this facility did not appear to be well set up for our needs. David feels that a more centrally located Edmonton hotel would be more appropriate. Some discussion on suitable venues ensued.

b. David will present some of our thoughts with them when they meet again.

c. Some discussion about who could chair the conference committee in Edmonton. We will need to generate some interest from people in Edmonton to help with conference. Michael suggested that they attend our conference to get a feel for how we run it.

d. If we plan the conference on our own then we may meet with Victoria School. Greg brought out that destination sites are better attended than in the city. River Cree Casino would qualify as a destination.

f. Newsletter email and Fine Facta: David Fettes

. Fine FACTA was addressed previously.

a. Newsletter email discussion. If you know about things happening, let Andreas know. Emails go out around the 15<sup>th</sup> of every month.

b. A comment was made by one recipient about the cost of the items that are listed.

c. A discussion was had about the new spam regulations in Canada. We will need to include a link in our next email to confirm that people want to be on our list.

g. Survey: John Poulsen and Andreas Berko

. John and Andreas are meeting this afternoon to prepare the Human Subjects Review and will send this in for approval shortly.

a. The survey itself is designed and needs to be transferred to the online version.

b. We will then submit the information gathered to the CDMA.

h. MADD awards: David Fettes

. If anybody has a recommendation for this award they should submit names. Commitment to the arts in the province and even nationally are required.

- a. Typically a current educator. Current executive members are not eligible.
- i. Honorary memberships: Jonathan Teghtmeyer
  - . Brought up that we need to submit nominations for this award as well.
- a. We will generate some interest for this, hopefully, through our next membership email.
- b. Deadline is August 30, 2014.
- j. Regionals Edmonton, Lethbridge , Fort McMurray: David Fettes
  - . We need to generate some membership in these areas so that we can connect with people throughout the province.
- a. David wondered if we can talk with Kim about getting the Fort McMurray regional. There seems to be some interest among the executive to have this initiated.
- b. Some suggestions for how to support Samuel in Lethbridge. David will contact Nancy Bridal about getting the money from the last account. Gaye asked if there are any records for membership for the area. David will get this information. Gaye offered some suggestions to Samuel for getting started.
- c. Currently Edmonton regional needs to get active. David will approach a few contacts to see if we can get it started up.
- k. Summer conference: David Fettes
  - . David will be attending summer conference. They also offer training for the conference director and if we can arrange for somebody to take this on for 2015 then they should attend.
- l. Expense form: David Fettes
  - . David passed out a draft form of the expense form for the executive to peruse.
- a. Question asked about a per diem for meals. Greg suggested that this will vary greatly by community and it shouldn't be a set rate. This is just for cases where meals might be required; in the case of this meeting today the meals were provided by the FAC.
- b. Greg felt that it is consistent with the forms that the ATA uses and that it should be sufficient.
- c. Jonathan initiated a discussion on the account codes at the bottom of the form.
- m. Curriculum redesign: David Fettes
  - . This has been mentioned in other areas and does not need to be discussed.
- n. Next meeting (Saturday after the September long weekend? Or last Saturday in August?)
  - . Next meeting is set for Saturday, September 6, 2014.
- o. Elections: David Fetter
  - . Some elections may be up. We are in an even number year so we are looking for a Secretary, Art Rep, and a Dance Rep (Stacey was filling in at the end of somebody else's term so she is up for re-election). Gayla will be past president for one more year.
- a. Music Rep is currently unfilled so we will need to find somebody who would be interested. Michael will talk to the music teacher at his school about joining; Samuel will discuss with his music friends. There is PD money (\$750) for the reps and your conference fees are waived.
- p. Buffalo Trail School Division in Vermillion: David Fettes
  - . Having a PD day and are looking for art and drama sessions. They are covering costs and will give a small honorarium to the presenters. Executive invited to attend. Friday, September 26, 2014. This is the same Friday as Beginning Teachers so it will be a potential conflict. Let David know the next few days.
- q. A final reminder given to please promote the conference as much as possible.

9. Adjourn

- Motion to adjourn made by Stacey Robinson at 2:44 pm. Carried.