

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 2021
ONLINE VIA ZOOM**



Present (Board and Staff): Michael Assal (Treasurer), Axel Rex (Chair) , Jens Urban (President), Stephanie Plante (Secretary), Thomas Lang, Hans Langenbahn, Werner Disselkamp, Gabi Kaindl, Karin Germann, Kirsten Loeffler, Jens Kull

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:08 p.m. and declared quorum at 1:09 p.m.

1. Approval of the Agenda

The Chair presented the agenda and asked if there were any questions for, or additions to, the agenda. There were none.

- MOVED BY *Stéphanie Plante* and SECONDED BY *Jens Urban* THAT the minutes of the 2021 AGM be adopted.**

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED

2. Minutes of the previous AGM meeting

The Secretary and the President reviewed the minutes from the last AGM meeting held March 2019. Due to the COVID pandemic, no AGM was held in 2020.

Approval of the 2019 AGM minutes.

- MOVED BY *Jens Urban* and SECONDED BY *Michael Assal* THAT the minutes of the 2019 AGM be adopted as corrected.**

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED

3. President's Report (Jens Urban)

Jens introduced all the board members. Elke Reissing has since stepped back from the board, and Jens thanked her for her work. Events are currently limited due to the pandemic, and all teaching continues online. The online Kinderkino has been a big success though, and more movies are coming.

GLS has to prepare for the 50th anniversary party after the pandemic. The German embassy has expressed interest in assisting, and the Swiss and Austrian embassies should also be approached.

Finally, the website will switch to a more user-friendly Squarespace site in the fall, it will also be more stable and save yearly costs.

4. Report of the Treasurer (Michael Assal)

Michael presented the financial reports for the years 2018-19 and 2019-20. He did lots of cleanup and is now fully online. The new numbers are more accurate. About \$37k came in through memberships and \$35k through the contribution from Germany. The book sales were relatively stable. Altogether we were able to build some reserves and put \$25k into GICs.

The Kaffeetisch also generated some income, and we are about \$17k in surplus. Our costs have been nominal and steady.

- ☐ MOVED BY *Michael Assal* and SECONDED BY *Jens Urban* THAT the financial reports 2018-19 and 2019-20 be approved as presented.**

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED

- ☐ MOVED BY *Michael Assal* and SECONDED BY *Elke Reissing* THAT the budget 2020-21 be approved as presented.**

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED

5. Report of the Principal of the GLS (Gabi Kaindl)

Gabi went over the chart with the student numbers and reiterated that much of the funding is tied to people finishing the DSD classes and the A1 and A2 exams in Grade 4 and 8.

We have to think about how to use school books in the future, students seem to be working better with books than with digital tools. Currently, we use many digital tools due to the pandemic. Unfortunately, we have to use Google Classroom, mandated by the school board. The advantage is that we don't have to pay for it.

6. By-law change (Urban)

Jens suggest to add another membership category, Alumni & Friends, for former students and friends of GLS who want to help and stay involved but don't have kids in GLS. GLS is the biggest German speaking group in Ottawa, and there is interest in continued involvement.

The group would have one non-voting representative on the board in order to help at events etc.

- ❑ **MOVED BY *Stéphanie Plante* and SECONDED BY *Urban* THAT an Alumni & Friends category be added to the GLS Ottawa Inc. by-laws, as presented.**

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED

7. GLS Board Constitution:

Election of new board members.
Applauded service of outgoing member Elke Reissing.

Election of a new board member:
Sabine Doenel-Atchison stands for election.

The new board member accepts the election.

The GLS Board therefore now consists of the following people:

Axel Rex (Chair), Jens Urban (President), Klaus Kostenbauer (Vice-President), Jens Kull, Stéphanie Plante (Secretary), Michael Assal (Treasurer), Werner Disselkamp, Sabine Doebel-Atchison, Hans-Juergen Langenbahn, Thomas Lang and Eric Leitner.

8. Open Forum

Michael Assal (Treasurer) advertises to use Electronic Money Transfers to pay the membership fees, since it saves the GLS money.

Kirsten says that the school board is running the summer camp, with teachers from the GLS. Registration goes through the French Catholic School Board, GLS will provide a link on the website.

Kirsten also reminds that there will be an online conference with all German teachers in Canada at the end of August.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was presented at 2:20 p.m..

- ❑ **MOVED BY *Stéphanie Plante* and SECONDED BY *Jens Urban* THAT that Annual General Meeting of the German Language School Ottawa be adjourned.**

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED

Respectfully submitted by

Stéphanie Plante, Secretary

Jens Urban, President