



*Canadian Association for the Practical Study of Law in Education*

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

Saturday, May 7, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. EST  
Video/Virtual Meeting

President David Mushens called the meeting to order and confirmed that we have quorum.

### **1. Approval of Agenda**

**Motion:** To approve the agenda.

Moved: Hugh Connelly, Seconded: John MacPherson. All in favour, no opposition – motion carried.

### **2. Approval of Minutes** of the Virtual Annual General Meeting held on May 8, 2021.

Motion: To approve the minutes of the Virtual Annual General Meeting from May 8, 2021.

Moved: John MacPherson, Seconded: Ken Brien. All in favour, no opposition – Motion carried.

### **3. Nominations**

(a) Report from Nominations Committee

Running for position of Director – we have 5 open spaces: Tim Breen, Emily Chan and Jerry Raso. We will hear from them shortly. For President John MacPherson, for VP Sophie Arseneault, Treasurer Melissa Eldridge and Secretary, Terrence Sullivan.

(b) First Call for Nominations from the Floor  
Officer's Positions – None. Directors – None.

### **4. Reports**

(a) President – David Mushens

It has been a privilege to serve as President of CAPSLE during this past year. As you will hear, like everyone else, these past couple of years have presented significant challenges for the organization, not the least of which has been financial.

What CAPSLE has always had going for it has been the opportunity once per year to come together from across the country to share ideas, learn from another, and, yes, to raise a glass...or two. It is the signature event of our year and more or less our raison

d'être. And while both last year and this year our conference organizing committees have put on excellent online ventures, it is sometimes difficult to maintain momentum and enthusiasm without that in person event to which so many of us look forward to in our professional development calendars.

That said, in recent years, we have begun to explore how else CAPSLE can grow to meet the needs of its members - and to attract new ones. We have hosted webinars, and explored the ideas of live and hybrid events occurring at more frequent intervals throughout the year, culminating in our annual conference each spring.

It was my hope, during my presidency, that we would be able to come together as a board to dig deeply into these plans and ideas. And while the pandemic prevented some of that work from being undertaken, it is my hope that the organization will continue to grow into a one stop place where our members - and others - will turn for information, for knowledge, and for ways to improve their practice, no matter which sector of the field in which they practice.

I want to take a moment to acknowledge the work of the board members who came together and though separated by computer screens, shared ideas and put into place concrete steps to continue to move forward. To those of you moving on from the board this year, I thank you for your work and your ideas.

Finally, I cannot begin to express the gratitude of the board and the organization for the work of our secretariat, Lori Pollock. If you have attended CAPSLE conferences over the years, you have met and worked with Lori. She has truly been the lynchpin in the organization for longer than any of us have served. She has been trying to gracefully retire from her work for some time now, but has graciously continued to support us while we have sought a replacement for those large shoes. This will surely have been Lori's last conference with us and I cannot thank her enough for her tenacity and perseverance, in keeping CAPSLE afloat and moving forward well beyond her intended retirement. Lori, thank you. If we were in person now, I hope you can imagine the standing ovation that would be occurring right now.

Thank you to the members of the organization for staying with us, for your interaction that we hope will only increase, for your sponsorships and various contributions. CAPSLE exists to benefit all of us in the field of education law and it is my fervent hope that it will continue to be a place of growth and even inspiration for years to come.

(b) Treasurer – John MacPherson

It has been, again, another difficult year for organizations such as CAPSLE to thrive. One of the major financial contributors to CAPSLE every year is, of course, the draw that we get from our in-person conference.

In 2020, the year prior to the year I am speaking to now, we did not have a conference to draw any money off of. In 2021, as opposed to 2020, we had a wonderful virtual conference for the first time that did very well. Mainly because of that, we did not have to draw from the reserve and had a surplus of \$63,207 for 2021 which was able to cover the 2020 loss (\$21,403).

The reserve balance at the end of 2021 was \$118,713. Which is a comfortable balance.

Going into 2022, while preparing the budget, the board was fully aware that a virtual conference would again occur in 2022 so we prepared our budget accordingly. A conservative budget was prepared as a result. 2022 would have been one of those years where the full board would have met in person in November to promote the cohesion of the group, but the board did not budget for travel for an in-person meeting either considering not having an in-person conference. We will strive to maintain budget for the balance of 2022.

5. **Appointment of the Auditors**

Motion: The accounting firm of GBLA LLP be appointed as auditors for 2022.  
Moved – Emily Chan, Seconded – Ken Brien. All in favour. Motion has passed

6. **Second Call for Nominations from the Floor**

Officer's Positions – None. Directors – None.

7. **Third and Final Call for Nominations from the Floor**

Officer's Positions – None. Directors – None.

8. **Elections**

All Executive and Director positions were filled by acclamation, with two Director positions remaining unfilled.

The 2022-2023 CAPSLE Board is

- John MacPherson – President
- Sophie Arseneault – VP
- Melissa Eldridge - Treasurer
- Terrence Sullivan – Secretary

9. **Other Business**

(a) Chair of 2023 Conference to make invitation

There currently is no Chair for the 2023 conference. David spoke to the fact that we are looking to Toronto as a central location where most people across Canada can access by direct flights. He encouraged people to consider stepping forward to volunteer to Chair or work on the Planning Committee.

(b) Announcement of winner of 2021 Bursary and 2022 Bursary Information

Terrence Sullivan: Must be a student who has been accepted or enrolled in a faculty of law or education and favour to a under-represented, 10 candidates. Levi Perreault was selected to receive the 2021 Bursary.

This year's deadline is May 31, 2022 for the bursary application.

(c) **Departing Board Members**

I want to acknowledge our Past President, Kate Dearden, who stepped down from the board this year as she began a new career avenue that required more of her time. Kate served on the board for over five years and was the first to lead us during this pandemic, helping us to pivot to a new, more virtual version of the organization.

11. **Statement of President Elect**

Thank you to everyone who took time out of their Saturday to attend. You are the backbone of this organization. Thank you to our Virtual Conference Chairs Sophie Arseneault and Maxine Vincelette and their Committee for one of, if not the best, conferences for content.

Thank you to our outgoing President, David Mushens, for your great leadership during a difficult time.

CAPSLE is truly a unique and valuable organization for education in Canada. It has been a number of difficult years, but we have weathered the storm and we are looking forward to a grand reunion next year in Toronto. In the meantime, we welcome suggestions as to how we can make our organization more useful for you.

This concludes the business of the AGM. I look forward to seeing everyone in Toronto next year.

12. **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn.

Moved – John MacPherson, seconded – Sophie Arseneault. Motion passed.