

Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes of Meeting
November 20, 2024
11:00am – 12:30pm

Via Zoom

Present:

John Haller, Cory Williams, Nicola Priestley, Kate Pelletier, Jason Leber, Abigail Fulton, Lesa Lacey, Kerry Vital, Will Schwarz, Tara Fong

Staff:

Michelle Skelly and Mona Soleimani

Regrets:

Dennis Innes, Courtenay Kearney, Brad Moe

Welcome:

- Cory Williams, Vice-President, started meeting and welcomed new Board member Tara Fong from Skilled Trades BC
- Tara provided a brief introduction to herself

Approval of Agenda:

- Motion to approve agenda.
- Moved: Kate Pelletier; Seconded: Abigail Fulton; Carried.

Approval of Minutes:

- Motion to approve the October 2, 2024, Board Minutes.
- Moved: Kerry Vital; Seconded: Nicola Priestly; Carried.

Reports:

President's Report:

In Dennis's absence, Cory gave a brief report on two items:

World Skills 2030 host bid – it was discussed at a recent Executive meeting whether BC should bid but was unanimously rejected because we do not have the internal capacity nor the confidence that government funding would be available to support a bid – there was general agreement from the Board – Alberta and Ontario may bid

Trades Training BC – potential funding opportunity – Cory asked Michelle to tell the Board about the recent meeting she and Dennis had with TTBC – they met with Ken Armour, President of TTBC (the group of presidents whose colleges provide trades and apprenticeship training) who is supportive of SkillsBC and will assist with an ask to the group for funding from each of the colleges. Michelle also mentioned that she assisted TTBC with a review of their website. Ken suggested May meeting could be a good target.

National Board Report:

- Not available in Dennis' absence

Executive Report: Michelle Skelly

Full written report is available on the Board webpage. Highlights include:

- Working diligently to secure sponsorships and we are ahead of last year in terms of sponsorships promised and received – Coast Capital have given \$25,000 - additional details in the Business Development Committee report
- New employee Mike Ford is working out well and has been very helpful in approaching sponsors for donations including materials to support competitions
- Work on Provincials is underway with meetings with Tradex to discuss how we might be able to reduce costs – have also had discussions with the City of Abbotsford and Tourism Abbotsford about how they may be able to help
- Issue this year in some school districts are reduced budgets which is affecting staffing and money to support extracurricular activities amid rising costs – i.e. bus pricing has risen and the SkillsBC subsidy of \$250 now only covers about 25% of the cost in some cases (in the past it was about 50%)
- Jamie Maxwell and Mike Ford are working to develop competitions in the regions that have been underrepresented
- Social media activity is increasing with Showshawna Blair doing pod casts, alumni profiles, and competition and trades and technology profiles
- Continued work to secure funding and keep SkillsBC top of mind for government
- Connected with Amber Gregory, to discuss helping us with Indigenous awareness and engagement including a potential Indigenous Showcase at the Provincial competition in April
- Attended educator conferences to promote SkillsBC
- Of note is new initiative Connect Your HUB by BCIT to support and connect women and gender diverse in trades programs and careers

Financial Report: Nicola Priestley - Treasurer

Nicola shared that they have accumulated just over \$320,000 in reserved funds and have invested \$150,000 in an RBC one-year cashable GIC. She also mentioned that the annual audit is still in progress and draft financials are expected in mid-December. Nicola also noted that the organization is performing better than budgeted overall.

No questions were raised regarding the financial report.

Motion to approve report.

- Moved: Nicola Priestly Seconded: Lesa Lacey Carried.

Committee reports:

Business Development Committee: Kerry Vital

Cory asked Kerry to give her report ahead of the Governance Committee report as she anticipated that there would be a lot to discuss with regards to the Governance report and draft policies being presented.

Kerry reported that the last Business Development meeting was on October 30 and the next meeting was scheduled for December 4, 2024. She commented that the connections being made with Indigenous groups may result in sponsorship support.

Michelle gave an update of the state of sponsorships to date. So far, we have received \$4,000 with a promise of additional \$55,000. As mentioned, this is ahead of where we were last year at this time. Michelle is in discussion with CN regarding a \$25,000 sponsorship and has received Bronze level sponsorship (\$5,000) from both BCIT and Canadian Homebuilders Association CHBA. We are reaching out to more sponsors for supplies and are in discussions with tool manufacturer Dewalt. They had been working only with the national group over the past few years and not the provincial chapters so this is encouraging.

Governance Committee: Kate Pelletier

Kate tabled a document, sent to the Board via email and available on the Board webpage that contains the policy review work that has been done by the Governance Committee. All policies have been reviewed and the tabled document contains the revised and recommended new policies. Approval for these will be sought at the January 15, 2025 Board meeting.

Of note are: the inclusion of a Code of Conduct policy; some changes to the Protection of Children, Youth and Vulnerable Adults policy; and deletions, revisions and additions to the HR policies.

There was a brief discussion with respect to how the policies apply to volunteers and how we communicate with them. Where it is applicable to volunteers, they have been identified in the policy.

With respect to volunteers that have contact with children and youth through competitions, Will Schwarz suggested that we enlist the Tech Chairs so they can disseminate the information . Suggest there could potentially be sign-in sheets for volunteers on competition day. Michelle will have Jamie connect with Will to develop a plan of how to action this.

7. Other Business:

None.

8. In-Camera: Michelle Skelly and Mona Soleimani left the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 12:39 p.m.

9. Next Meeting: January 15, 2025