

## **Constitution for the Community Schools Alliance**

### 1. NAME OF THE ORGANIZATION

The name of the organization is the Community Schools Alliance.

### 2. MISSION STATEMENT

The Community Schools Alliance is a non-profit organization committed to working with the Ontario Ministry of Education, municipalities and school boards to achieve a collaborative process that results in democratically determined decisions regarding education infrastructure. Such decisions should be based on principles that consider the broad impact, including but not limited to both social and fiscal effects, of any changes to the infrastructure on students and their community

### 3. GOALS

- a. Students should have the opportunity to attend elementary and secondary school in their home community.
- b. School boards, including co-terminus boards, and municipalities should work together to build creative partnerships that allow community resources and services to be delivered in conjunction with education so that schools evolve into community hubs.
- c. When surplus space develops in a school due to enrolment decline, the school board and the municipality should work together to identify community uses for the space before considering closure of the school.
- d. The input of students, parents and the community to the student accommodation review process used by school boards should be respected and valued.

- e. A municipality should have the opportunity to appeal a decision by a school board to close a school to an independent body if it believes the board has failed to adequately consider the impact of the closure on the municipality.
- f. The provincial government's formula for funding school boards should recognize the critical role of schools to the local economy and the social fabric in rural and northern Ontario communities.

#### 4. MEMBERSHIP

- a. The first members of the organization shall be those persons whose names and signatures appear on Schedule A of this constitution.
- b. Every municipality in Ontario will have the opportunity to become a member of the organization by submitting the required fee with an application.
- c. Other individuals and bodies, including municipal organizations may become members of the organization with the approval of the Executive Committee and upon payment of the required fee.

#### 5. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- a. The affairs of the organization shall be controlled and managed by the Executive Committee. Subject to the terms of this constitution and to the resolutions of members in the Annual Meeting, the Executive Committee may exercise all the powers of the organization.
- b. All members of the Executive Committee shall be members of the organization or elected officials of member municipalities.

- c. The Executive Committee shall comprise at least seven (7) but not more than eleven (11) members and will consist of the following:
  - i. Chair;
  - ii. Vice-Chair;
  - iii. Secretary-Treasurer;
  - iv. A minimum of four (4) other persons.
- d. The initial Executive Committee shall be established by the first members of the organization referenced in 4.a. above.
- e. The term of office for the members of the initial Executive Committee shall extend until the next Annual Meeting but the members shall be eligible for re-election.
- f. At the first Annual Meeting of the Community Schools Alliance, eleven members shall be elected to the Executive Committee.
- g. At the first meeting of the Executive Committee following the first Annual Meeting, Executive Committee members shall identify four (4) members who shall serve a one-year term, four (4) members who shall serve a two-year term and three (3) members who shall serve a three-year term.
- h. Subsequent members of the Executive Committee shall be elected for a three year term at an Annual Meeting.
- i. The Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary-Treasurer shall be elected by the members of the Executive Committee following the Annual Meeting.
- j. Should a position on the Executive Committee become vacant, the remaining members of the Executive Committee shall appoint a person to fill the vacancy and that person shall hold office for the balance of the term but shall be eligible for re-election.
- k. The office of an Executive Committee member shall become vacant if a member:
  - i. resigns;
  - ii. becomes unfit and/or incapable of acting as such;
  - iii. ceases to be a member of the organization;

- iv. is removed by the Executive Committee by a resolution adopted by at least two-thirds (2/3) of its members.
- v. misses three consecutive meetings.
- l. Meetings of the Executive Committee shall be convened by the Chair on not less than ten (10) days' notice to members of the Committee.
- m. Quorum for meetings of the Executive Committee shall be a majority of the members of the Committee.
- n. Whenever possible, meetings of the Executive Committee shall be by conference call or by videoconference.

## 6. ANNUAL MEETINGS

- a. Whenever possible, Annual Meetings of the organization shall be held in conjunction with the Annual General Meetings of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.
- b. Annual Meetings shall be convened by the Chair on not less than twenty-one (21) days' notice to all members of the organization. The notice shall state the date, time and place of the meeting and, in broad terms, the business to be transacted at the meeting.
- c. The business of an Annual Meeting shall include:
  - i. the presentation and adoption of the Annual Report of the Chair;
  - ii. the consideration of the Annual Financial Statement for the preceding calendar year;
  - iii. the election of members to serve on the Executive Committee for the following year;
  - iv. other matters as may be considered appropriate.
- d. All members of the organization and all elected officials of member municipalities in good standing shall be eligible to vote at an Annual Meeting.

- e. All voting at an Annual Meeting shall be by show of hands except for the election of members of the Executive Committee which shall be by ballot.

## 6. FINANCIAL MATTERS

- a. An account in the name of the Community Schools Alliance shall be held by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.
- b. All monies received by the organization shall be deposited in the abovementioned account.
- c. All cheques shall be signed by the Chair and/or the Secretary Treasurer.
- d. The organization's financial year shall be the calendar year.
- e. The Secretary Treasurer shall prepare an annual budget for the Community Schools Alliance and shall see to the general administration of the budget.
- f. The Secretary Treasurer shall prepare an Annual Financial Statement for each financial year. The Annual Financial Statement shall include a statement of income and expenditure.
- g. All expenditures shall require the authorization by the Executive Committee and will be used to promote the objectives of the organization.
- h. No portion of the income of the organization shall be paid to any person or to any member of the organization or the Executive Committee except as:
  - i. reasonable compensation for services actually rendered to the organization;
  - ii. reimbursement of actual costs or expenses reasonably incurred on behalf of the organization.

## 7. MEMBERSHIP FEES

The Executive Committee shall determine the required annual membership fees for individuals, municipalities, municipal organizations and other bodies.

## 8. AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION

- a. This Constitution may be amended by a resolution of two-thirds (2/3) of the members present at an Annual Meeting.
- b. At least twenty-one (21) days' notice prior to the Annual Meeting stating the nature of the resolution to be proposed must be given to all members of the organization.

## **SCHEDULE A**

### **SCHEDULE OF INITIAL MEMBERS**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>ADDRESS</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>SIGNATURE</b>
1. Alan Barfoot	Georgian Bluffs	February 22, 2015	
2. James Collard	Niagara-on-the-Lake	February 22, 2015	
3. Denis Doyle	Frontenac Islands	March 31, 2015	
4. Patricia Greig	Northern Bruce Peninsula	February 22, 2015	
5. Lucy Kloosterhuis	Oliver Paipoonge	February 22, 2015	
6. Carol Lowery	Temagami	March 31, 2015	
7. Gerry Marshall	Simcoe County	February 22, 2015	
8. Don Murray	Huron-Kinloss	March 31, 2015	
9. Doug Reycraft	Southwest Middlesex	February 22, 2015	
10. Marcus Ryan	Zorra	February 22, 2015	
11. Brian Smith	Wasaga Beach	March 31, 2015	