

# AASCA Directors' Meeting May 2008

La Antigua Guatemala  
May 1, 2008

## **Members Present:**

### **Costa Rica**

Marian Baker School  
Lincoln School  
Pan-American School  
Country Day School  
AIS

Linda Niehaus, VP/Treasurer  
Jack Bimrose  
Alegria Lores  
Gloria Doll

### **Absent**

### **El Salvador**

Escuela Panamericana  
Escuela Americana  
Colegio Maya  
Colegio Internacional

Eric Bosworth  
Patricia  
Suzie Gonzalez

### **Absent**

### **Guatemala**

CAS  
Colegio Maya  
CAG  
Decroly Americano  
Colegio Interamericano

Scott MacLauchlan, Secretary  
Sherry Miller  
Ettie Zilber  
Martha Maristany  
Mike Farr (Day 1)

### **Honduras**

Mazapán  
Escuela Internacional Sampedrana  
American School of Tegucigalpa

Martha Council  
Ron Vair  
Liliana Jenkins

### **Nicaragua**

ANS  
Lincoln International Academy

Elsa Lamb  
Adolfo Gonzales

### **Panama**

Balboa Academy  
CCA  
ISP

Jean Lamb  
Jacqueline Wiese  
Linda Lapine (Days 2 and 3)

Mary Virginia Sanchez, Tri-Association

**Guests:** José Oyanguren, St. Augustine Preparatory School, Nicaragua  
Luis Chavez, Freedom High School, Honduras (Day 3)

## **1. Introduction and presentation of new members and guests and an ice-breaker activity.**

## **2. Principals' Report**

Maribel Maldonado of Colegio Maya Guatemala presented the report. (attached) In addition to the points outlined in the report, Maribel added:

- Thanks to the Mazapan School for hosting a productive meeting.
- The principals reviewed the AASCA mission and membership criteria. They feel that it is unclear and ask the directors to review and clarify these procedures.
- Many of the sportsmanship issues were dealt with successfully by the extraordinary AD meeting.

## **3. Treasurer's Report**

The Association is in sound financial condition with \$83,000 in the bank. There were few expenses this year.

**Elsa moved to accept the report and Martha seconded. It was accepted unanimously.**

## **4. Website**

There was a discussion of the importance of the website as a resource website was underutilized.

**Liliana moved to increase the stipend for the webmaster to \$1,000 a year. Martha seconded and the motion was passed unanimously.**

## **5. Minutes of 2007 Directors' Meeting**

**Elsa moved to accept the minutes as read. Gloria seconded and the motion was passed unanimously.**

## **6. Agenda**

Ettie asked for the Middle School Choir event to be added to the agenda and the agenda was approved as amended.

## **7. Tri-Association Conference**

Mary Virginia presented information about the 2008 tri-Association Conference, *Leadership for the Success of All Students*. It will take place in San Jose this year. Lincoln will be hosting with the help of CDS, Marian Baker and AIS.

## **8. Principals' Recommendations**

Action was taken on the following recommendations:

**#1** – As the number of AASCA member schools has grown, an imbalance has been created among large and small schools. The principals asked for a review of the definition of large and small schools. Various options

were discussed including changing the cutoff number between large and small schools and the creation of three divisions given the growing number of schools.

Jack proposed three divisions with schools with up to 149 secondary students defined as small schools, 150-349 secondary students as medium schools, and schools with more than 350 secondary students would be defined as large schools.

**Elsa moved: the divisions would continue as currently defined for the 2008-2009 school year. Jack's proposal will be referred to the AD and principals' meetings for study and then to the 2009 Directors' meeting for final action. Passed Unanimously.**

**# 3** – There was a discussion about the proposal for AD professional development.

**Sherry moved: The school that hosts the biannual AD meeting will facilitate a professional development component to support and continue to develop recent efforts in this area. Elsa seconded. Passed unanimously.**

**#4** – After discussion, it was decided that this did not require action by the Directors and that the principals could make determinations about the terms of office of their officers.

**# 5** – Knowledge Bowl. The principals feel that this has been a very popular and worthwhile event but there is not sufficient time. They request an additional day. There was discussion about the inclusion of JV teams and whether they should do smaller events in preparation before traveling to the AASCA Knowledge Bowl. No consensus was reached.

There was consensus about recommending that a problem-solving strand be included for teams during frequent down times. The host school will work on piloting a new component for the coming year.

**Jack moved that the Knowledge Bowl remain as currently programmed for 2008-2009. The matter of JV inclusion should be reviewed at next year's principals' meeting for a final determination at the May 2009 Directors' meeting. Gloria seconded and it was passed unanimously.**

**# 6** – Translation of documents – The principals recommend the translation of documents developed by the AD's. Consistent with the philosophy of AASCA, these documents should be available in English as well as Spanish.

**Sherry moved to authorize the expenditure of up to \$200 for the translation of these documents. Elsa seconded and the motion was passed unanimously.**

# 7 – AD meetings – Because many AD’s are not fully bilingual, the principals ask that the host school provide an interpreter for the meetings to facilitate the participation of all AD’s. There was a consensus that this was a good idea.

# 8- Flags. In accordance with the principals’ recommendation,

**Elsa moved: Schools hosting AASCA events will display the flags of the six countries at opening and closing ceremonies. Nationalistic displays will be discouraged during competitions. Accepted unanimously.**

# 10 Airfares – there was discussion about high costs of airfare within Central America and its negative impact on the ability of some schools to participate in all events. Given the number of events and travelers, it was decided to approach Taca and Copa to evaluate the possibility of negotiating better fares for AASCA events. Patricia will inquire with Taca and Jacqueline will inquire with Copa. Linda will compile data about the number of events and participants for Patricia and Jacqueline to present.

### **Calendar 2008 – 2009**

The calendar as presented by the principals was reviewed.

**Ettie moved to change large school basketball to Oct 9 – 13. Martha seconded and it was approved 6 to 0.**

Small school basketball has two pending options. Linda will talk to ISP and advise.

The final calendar for the 2008-2009 school year approved as amended:

September 4-7	Leadership Conference	CAS- Guatemala
October 8 -12	Small School Basketball	ISP - Panama
October 14-17	Tri-Association Conference	Lincoln – Costa Rica
October 9 – 13	Large School Basketball	EI Sampedrana – Honduras
November 6-9	Knowledge Bowl	Decroly – Guatemala
January 29 – Feb 1	Music Festival	EI Sampedrana – Honduras
February 18-22	Soccer Invitational	CAG – Guatemala
March 25-29	Small School Volleyball	Mazapan – Honduras
March 25-29	Large School Volleyball	Am School Tegucigalpa – Honduras
April 17-20	Principals’ Meeting	ANS – Nicaragua
April 30-May 3	Directors’ Meeting	Balboa Academy – Panama

## **Strategic Planning**

Elsa Lamb led a discussion about the future of the Association. There was discussion about vision, mission, philosophy, core values and beliefs.

After an afternoon of discussion and activities, there was consensus about six core values.

Work continued the morning of May 2. Mike Farr from Colegio Interamericano left the meeting and Linda Lapine from ISP joined the group.

After a morning of continued work, the group arrived at a consensus on the following:

### **Core Values**

AASCA is committed to:

1. principles of democracy
2. community service and service learning
3. providing English and host country instructional programs that empower learners to reach their full potential
4. educating for success in a diverse global economy
5. formal external accreditation as a standard for educational excellence
6. building community through a variety of activities and experiences

### **Mission**

AASCA provides opportunities for school communities to participate in activities to develop their full potential, social responsibility, and global citizenship.

### **Vision**

AASCA will be a model association that develops democratic leadership for today and tomorrow.

### **Goals**

1. Provide professional development events and activities to enhance the teaching-learning process
2. Provide a broad range of activities for students with social, learning and performance objectives
3. Promote community service and service learning in all member schools
4. Strengthen AASCA's organizational identity

It was decided that a task force should be formed to review the language of the values, mission, vision and goals and develop strategies to be presented at next year's meeting. Liliana Jenkins and Martha Council will work with the new officers.

## **9. Other events**

Middle School choir will be held in the 2009-2010 school year and will alternate years with the Music Festival.

There was little interest in having a library media conference next year. There will be no media conference or business managers' meeting in 2008-2009.

## **10. Staff Development**

There was a consensus about the importance of professional development activities. There was a discussion of possible topics for the 2008-2009 year.

**Jean moved that assessment be the theme of the 2008-2009 year. Adolfo seconded and it was passed unanimously.**

Liliana, Adolfo and Charlie will form a committee to organize the activity.

## **11. Elections of officers for 2008-2010**

**Pursuant to the bylaws, the Vice President- Treasurer is the presumptive candidate for President. Linda Niehaus agreed to accept the position and her selection was ratified unanimously.**

**Adolfo Gonzalez was nominated for secretary. He was elected unanimously.**

**Ron Vair was nominated fro Vice President-Treasurer. He was elected unanimously.**

## **12. Website**

There was continued discussion about the website and its potential use in staff development. There was a consensus that the website should be used more extensively and more effectively.

**Sherry moved the stipend for the webmaster be raised to \$2,000 a year. The motion was passed unanimously.**

On the third day of meetings, Luis Chavez from Freedom High School in San Pedro Sula was in attendance as a guest.

Ettie presented a video of the Middle School Choir event hosted by CAG.

### **13. Dues**

As there is a balance of \$83,000 in the Association's account and few outstanding bills, **Sherry moved to leave the dues unchanged for the 2008-2009 school year. Adolfo seconded and the motion passed unanimously.**

### **14. New Members**

Panamerican School of Costa Rica, the Colegio Maya El Salvador and Crossroads Chrisitan Academy of Panama had been accepted as non-voting members last year. They have all been visited by AASCA and are all in the process of accreditation in the US.

**Elsa moved that these three non-voting members be accepted as full members. Sherry seconded and the motion passed unanimously.**

Freedom High School of San Pedro Sula has applied for membership.

**Elsa moved that Freedom High School be accepted as a non-voting member. Sherry seconded and the motion was passed without dissent.**

Ron and Martha Council will visit the school. They are beginning the accreditation procedure with NEASC this year. Final action will be pending next year after the reports of these two visits.

St. Augustine Preparatory School in Managua has applied for membership.

**Elsa moved to accept St. Augustine as a non-voting member. Liliana seconded and they were accepted without dissent.**

Adolfo will visit the school and report next year.

Both Freedom and St. Augustine will be able to participate in the year's events if they pay the dues.

There were recommendations for reviewing the applications of prospective members. There should be a discussion of each member by the entire group of directors without the candidate present and more formal procedures should be established. Linda, Ron and Adolfo will work on a proposal for next year.

**Linda moved to accept the recommendations of the principals to give the service awards to Colegio Maya-Guatemala and ANS. Passed without dissent.**

There was also consensus that more schools should participate. Scott, as hosting director of the Leadership Conference, will present the awards in

September and talk to all the schools about the importance of community service.

Sherry Miller and Elsa Lamb, as retiring directors, were awarded bowls and thanked for their many years of service in education in Central America and particularly for their contributions and leadership in AASCA.