

Minutes of the ACLS Board of Directors

Subject: Regular ACLS Board meeting
Present: Dick Calandrella, Wei Li, Yuming Liu, Jianying Shi, Yanhua Tang, Jianguo Wang, and Zeming Wang
Note taker: Yuming Liu
Date/Time: Saturday, April 16, 2011, 7:00 – 10:00 p.m.
Place: 22 Longmeadow Way, Acton, MA 01720

Meeting minutes:

1. *ACLS Operation*

ACLS continued to operate smoothly over the past several months. In particular, successful operations were achieved on the five co-existence days. ACLS continues to be healthy financially despite ~50% increase in rent from last year. As well, ACLS (together with Town of Acton and Acton-Boxborough Culture Council) successfully hosted the event of *Acton's 275th Anniversary & 2011 Chinese New Year Celebration*.

2. *Planning for Next School Year*

- There will be a total of ~36 classrooms for next school year. Several additional classrooms will be required. The availability of these classrooms needs to be confirmed by Acton-Boxborough Community Education.
- CSL (Chinese as Second Language) program will continue at its current six levels. The students who completed CSL6 and would like to pursue more Chinese learning can either choose to join regular Chinese classes or remain in CSL6. The curriculum of CSL6 will be amended with the addition of extra materials with a special focus on thinking and speaking in Chinese.
- For a class of over ~20 students, an additional TA will be provided. A key role of the additional TA is to help maintain classroom order.
- To improve the quality of teaching, both internal and external training for teachers will be strengthened. In addition, teachers are encouraged to visit their fellow teachers' lectures.
- The teachers group is developing graduation policies based on students' performance on tests, attendance, and length of study in order to accommodate students in different programs, using different text books.
- The Board evaluated the proposal of changing the registration process from once a semester to once per year. After careful discussion of pros and cons of the change, the Board decided to continue the current system of registration, i.e., all students need to register every semester.

3. *Summer Camp*

Since the number of interested students is below the minimum required for the program, the summer camp program is cancelled for this year. The plan now is to have the summer camp once every other year.

4. AB High School Awards

ACLS will continue to provide two \$500 awards to AB high school graduates. The Board also approved a donation of \$500 in support of AB Science Team.

5. Website for ACLS Teachers

The Board followed up on the construction of the advanced website for ACLS teachers. A high-level plan of usage of the website by ACLS teachers has been developed. The Board assigned a board member, Yanhua Tang, to take a lead to form a team of several technical people to start to identify the necessary technical developments needed and to setup the their priority and timeline.

6. Board Member Election

There will be three two-year Board seats open for election in June 2011.

7. New Initiatives

The board in principle approved the initiative proposed by Zeming Wang to purchase dragon frames (for Dragon Dance) for supporting culture activities in the future. Zeming will be responsible for developing a detailed plan on the ownership/storage and collaboration with other organizations on the use of the dragon frames.

The board discussed various initiatives of reaching out to China. These include expanding ACLS' summer camp program to accepting students from other Chinese language schools in the greater Boston area and collaborating with Newton Chinese Language School on its Support China Education Project. No specific decision was made. Further discussions involving Parent Council as well as interested parents are needed.