

Minutes of the EVA ACSL Meeting – Monday, February 10, 2014

(Final –as amended and approved at Mar. 10 PAC)

Attendees: Neil Arnason, Melanie Barnabé, Barb Cahoun, Mike Deneka, Christopher Lepa, Shannon Tipping, Tatiana Gericke, Maria Fonseca, Karen Girard-Smith, Jeff Smith, Mike Deneke, Vanessa Nowastawski, Wanda Dombek, Peter Ward

Regrets: Annette Bonneteau, Kevin Olfert, Robyn Olfert,.

1. Introductions

- a. Agenda , moved to amend to include item from Wanda Dombek at top of agenda, carried
- b. Approval of minutes – January, 2014, amended to include BC as an attendee, moved MF, seconded CL, carried. November, 2013, moved CL, seconded VN, carried.

2. New Business

- a. *Funding for Art project* – W. Dombek made a funding request for Grade 7 & 8 art for Tile Sculpture/benches with assistance from Dimitri Komar of Mosaika Studios. He would come out twice (Feb. 27 and Mar 27) to work for a full day with Gr 7 and 8 students on tile making and then on construction and tiling of benches. Students will continue the project during art classes after spring break until late April at which point Dimitri would come out for a third visit (half day). A detailed proposal was submitted: \$800 for Dimitri, rest for materials. Request for approximately \$1,100 in costs. **Motion** to approve funds PW, seconded MF, carried. (Note that PAC made recommendation to WD that in future years, art students should participate in the fundraising to pay for such larger projects, to develop a sense of group endeavour among art students, and give an additional sense of accomplishment).
- b. *Open House* (this item was discussed following the Regular Reports, as per the agenda) – is on March 6, from 6 to 8 pm. Considered what refreshments to provide and will see about atelier students making chocolate chip cookie pizzas again. Also juice, water, cookies and fruit. **Motion:** provide up to \$200 or so for supplies for an Open House reception/refreshment table? Moved PW, seconded CL, carried. NA to buy supplies and organise this event

3. Matters arising (old business)

- a. **Pancake Breakfast** ST – Pancake Day is planned for Friday Feb. 21, our day to celebrate Festival de Voyageur – had thought of having pancakes as one of the Festival stations that students would attend in rotation (throughout the day). NA – experience suggests that it is easier to get parent volunteers from 7:30 to 10 am before many go to work and more difficult for parents to leave work during the day to volunteer. ST – the day can start with pancakes then. VN – band members leave for optimist Festival later this year so will have time to have their pancakes if served first.
NA – NA will try to arrange for 15 – 20 volunteers; about that many checked off pancake day on the volunteer forms. CL – students help? VN – with supervision; NA – student help with chocolate chip pizzas (for open house) worked for Sheila Mitchell-Dueck last year; Students would be welcome to come with their parent volunteer to help cook/set up before school.

NA – PAC will look into contingencies and suggests that PAC allow up to \$400 [PAC spent approx \$300 on pancake breakfast last year] – I have notes provided by last year’s buyers, Carol Steel and SM-D on supplies needed and where to get them. Also, need to use kitchen; VN – should be OK to use – no atelier that day.

NA will organize volunteers to buy supplies, prepare food (orange slices, pancakes, milk) in kitchen, set up and serve in multipurpose room, then cleanup kitchen and multipurpose room after all students served (start making pancakes at 7:30, start serving at 8:30 and should be done by 9:30-10:00)

Motion PAC to organise and pay for pancake day on Friday, Feb. 21. .BC, seconded CL, carried.

4. Regular reports:

a. Chair’s report

a. NA attended information presentation meeting at École Crane PAC with ST to provide transition information

b. NA was unable to attend the MAPC breakfast meeting (Feb. 1): AGM is in April – can send alternates.

c. Interviews in January for new lunch program co-ordinator to replace Elan Stemkoski who resigned as of end of January to pursue more hours of work and closer to home now that she has qualified for EA work. Elan has been very helpful in selecting her replacement and expressed her regrets that she was unable to continue in the job, as she had enjoyed the work and the reception she got from students and staff here. Tatiana Gericke has been hired as her replacement as of beginning of February. ST and ES did a rough calculation of whether the lunch program was financially self sustaining; as of October, 2013 the funding account had approximately \$22,000. ES and ST projected, that at current staffing and hourly wage rates, expenses to end of school term were likely to be in the range of \$17-18 thousand, so we are in good shape. However, the new co-ordinator has been encouraged to review staffing and wage levels and to make recommendations towards the end of the year so that lunch fees can be set appropriately for next year. This will likely come to ACSL at the last meeting in June.

b. Principal’s Report

* a detailed Principal’s report was handed out and reviewed (see Appendix).

* There was discussion following item 3 (Transition) as to whether the division will be sending Bonneycastle students to EVA next year, as Bonneycastle (a dual track K-5 English/K-4 French school) is bursting at the seams due to additional catchment from Waverly West development – not sure how many students will come or whether it will mean an extra grade 5 class.

* There were questions concerning item 7 (Ski Trip). Date is March 12 & 13 for grades 7 and 8.

MD – would parent volunteers be required? MF – parents need to be updated on confirming that the trip is on, price, itinerary, etc. ST responded that she would see that information was sent out shortly to parents.

* ST added information about reading week: there will be an Olympic theme and related activities with an opportunity for students to accumulate scores for their completion.

c. **Treasurer's report**

CL passed around a printout of the current account status.

PAC a/c: \$7680.13 (includes pizza deposits for Jan-June)

Milk a/c: \$7822.05

d. **School Grounds Transformation**

CL reported that bills for phase 2 (willow island) have been paid. The next step (phase 3) is schoolground equipment: basketball hoops, tether ball and benches. Maple Leaf will be replacing asphalt on warranty as water pools at one end; SGTC is also considering replacing or covering that end and converting it to some other use. SGTC is getting firm commitments on purchases and will order early and store.

Next phase is the play structure with some restoring and upgrading of the existing structure and a large climbing rock. There are plans for an outdoor classroom. The committee is in the process of applying for grants.

e. **Music Program**

VN reported that Band-a-thon was a great success and extended thanks to the parent volunteers (pizza and pancakes). Of the 120 band students, approximately 100 participated and \$2,300 to \$2,500 was raised. Some will be used for scholarships to summer band camp.

f. **Lunch Program**

TG: we are understaffed and continue to have difficulty in hiring enough staff. We would like to hire 2 full-time and 1 part-time monitor. Grades 5 and 6 have lunch in their classrooms while grades 7 and 8 are in the multipurpose room. TG is now acting as a fulltime supervisor in the MP room but with additional staffing, she would have time to circulate and supervise. Ads are out to neighbouring schools, and PTSD jobs listing, but further steps will be taken (community notices, kijijii) if these do not produce adequate results.

g. **Pizza Program**

RO by report: we do have parent volunteers, but would like a few more so that they could have time off. Better if 4 or 5 parents knew the routine.

h. **Milk Program**

AB by report: all is good.

Motion to adjourn CL, carried.

Appended: Principal's PAC Report, February 2014



ÉCOLE VISCOUNT ALEXANDER

AMBASSADEURS DU FUTUR ...

810 Waterford Ave Wpg, MB R3T 1G7
Phone: 204-452-8945 • Fax: 204-474-5131
www.pembinatrails.ca/viscountalexander

Principal's Report February 10, 2014

Lunch Program: Mrs. Elan Stemkoski resigned from her position as Lunch Coordinator at the end of January. Thanks to Mr. Neil Arnason and Mrs. Stemkoski, we were able to find Mrs. Tatiana Gericke who has continued in this position since last week. We are very happy that she is continuing in this role. We have also had Mrs. Michelle Dueck who has taken on a new position in January and has resigned as Lunch Monitor. We are currently looking for additional supervisors as we are not yet at full staff.

Band-a-thon: Grade 7 and 8 band students had their band-a-thon in January. Students worked in sectionals and full band rehearsals on the Friday evening before enjoying some cooperative games in the gym. They then had a sleepover and continued their musical practices on Saturday morning until 11:30 a.m.

Transition: Transition for the new students entering Viscount continued this month. Mme Tipping visited both Grade 4 students at Ecole Crane and answered questions about the school and read for I Love to Read week. Mrs. Nowostawski, Mme Wieringa, Mme Tipping and the jazz ensemble visited Ecole St. Avila last Friday. The jazz ensemble played 4 musical selections, students shared their thoughts about Ecole Viscount Alexander and highlighted our various programs. Vincent Massey will be visiting our Grade 8 students Thursday this week to start the transition and discussion about the registration process. March our transitional highlights will be our Open House on March 6 from 6-8 pm. We are hoping that there will be parent representatives at the Open House.

Festival du Voyageur: To highlight the French cultural event, we will be having a Festival assembly on Friday, February 21 where students will be sharing selections they have been working on with Mme Nowostawski. Staff is currently organizing fun Festival activities in the afternoon of February 21. We are hoping that the parent breakfast could be part of our activities in the afternoon as a station for students? The Grade 8 students that are away at the Optimist Festival will be returning and able to have their pancakes when they return in the afternoon. Additional activities during this week will include spirit week and cooking events.

Art/Band Upcoming Events: There are several upcoming band events in February. To coincide with the band activities, Mme Dombek has organized several artists to come and work with the art students. Events are tentatively as outlined below:

February 21 – Grade 8 students will be attending the Optimist Festival. Grade 8 art students will be working with a photographer who is going to be teaching them how to take pin hole photography and develop them for them. We are just getting confirmation from the division regarding the safety parameters.

February 27/28 – Grade 7/8 band students will be attending the Optimist Jazz Festival. Mme Dombek has organized Demitri, a mosaic tile artist to come in during these times to work with students on indoor benches for the school. Mme Dombek would like to present this idea to the council and ask for some financial assistance. Demitri will continue to work in March/April with students as well in order to complete the benches.

March 20/21- Mme Dombek has invited bilingual artist and former Principal, Mr. Gordon Campbell to come and work with the students.

Conferences: Our conferences will be held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 3:45 – 8:00 pm. Information was sent via email to families outlining the format of the conferences. Unfortunately we did not have additional time, as per our last conferences, for an additional day to allow more time for conferences. As a staff we are reviewing and looking at different models for next year as we realize that the times, especially for Grades 7 and 8, were on a first come, first serve basis and were filled quickly. We are looking at changing this for the future. We apologize for the inconvenience to families. Our report cards will be available online in March.

Ski trip: There are over 100 students that have registered for the ski trip on March 12 and 13. Staff has started to meet with students about the safety aspects of the trip. Staff has planned to meet with students at least two times per week during the lunch hour to review the expectations, safety features and procedures while on the ski trip. Students that are unable to make the meetings do need to review the information or they will not be able to attend.

Chess Club: This club will be starting up shortly. Divisional tournament will be later in the year.

Grade 6 Basketball: Friendship tournament will be held in March. Practices have already started over the lunch hour.

Let's Talk Science: Mme Jarvie's, Grade 6 class, participated in one of the University of Manitoba science workshops.

Museum of Man and Nature – Grade 5 classes will be going on a school field trip to Museum of Man and Nature as part of their Social Studies curriculum on February 18.

Grade 6/7 Drama improvisation workshops: Grade 7s will be participating in an improv workshop in a few weeks. Grade 6 classes participated in the workshop last week. Lauren Cochrane, SOS improve out of FRC, is facilitating this event. A city wide improv event will also be organized for interested students in April.

Other Grade 7 initiatives: Students will be participating in student initiated inquiry based projects for one week. This is an exploratory initiative that teachers are currently organizing.

Student Council Initiatives: Student Council has organized a dance on the afternoon of February 14. The entrance to the dance is \$2.00 with the canteen items at an additional cost (max \$3.00). Additional activities will be offered for those students that do not wish to participate in the dance. Student Council is also selling buttons for We are Love campaign for \$2.00. Funds for the buttons will be going to Free the Children.

Pizza Day: Pizza days this month will be on Thursday, February 13 and Thursday, February 27.

Louis Riel Day – No school

Constable Minkus visit: Constable Minkus, our school resource officer, will be meeting with the Grade 8 students on February 11 at 14h40 pm to review and discuss social media and posting pictures. Additional assemblies and meetings will be held in the future with other grades to address our safety concerns and appropriate technology use in and out of school.

Olympic Reading: Mr. Monin has organized an Olympic Reading event at Viscount Alexander. Students will be receiving points for being involved in various reading activities throughout February 10 – 21.