

Minutes of the EVA ACSL Annual General Meeting, June 11, 2012

Attendees: Neil Arnason, Mélanie Barnabé, Annette Bonneteau, Rachel Donner, Cal Dueck, Marcia Fonseca, Sheryl Hague, Signy Kuch, Christopher Lepa, Janet Froese Lucas, Karine Rioux, Pam Sawatzky, Wendy Simonsen, Carol Steel, Judy Stevens, Amy Wall, Shirley Zaporzan

1. Approval of Agenda: motion to approve: CS, 2nd: SK; approved
2. Approval of Minutes from June 13, 2011: motion to approve: JL; 2nd: CL; carried
3. Annual Reports:
 - a) **Principal's Report (KR):** Through the elaboration and promotion of our school's shared vision, mission statement and beliefs, we are rebuilding rapport among students, staff, parents and the community. We are focusing on creating a positive school culture and harmonious relationships. As a result, we will be better able to focus on increasing student learning year after year. Thus far, community feedback has been exceptional on behalf of students, parents, staff and contractors working in the building during Phases I and II. We continue receiving positive emails, phone calls or engaging in one-on-one dialogues about the remarkable changes which have been shared throughout the year with our SAT link and Superintendent, Lawrence Lussier. Parents are noticing an "attitudinal shift" among staff members. EAs are saying through celebrations that it's the best year ever. Students and parents are thanking us for numerous changes, including the implementation of recess and much more. As a result, the school community's engagement at large is increasing through a sense of pride, belonging and significant contributions.

2011/2012 Highlights – All new changes as of this school year:

- Feeding staff with food, love, appreciation, acknowledgement and validation through ongoing celebrations
- PR, PR and more PR through community events and the media, rebuilding our reputation. We've appeared in the local newspaper 3 times, live on CTV morning news with 2 students, Global morning news with one of our grade 5 teacher, PTSD's community report and the divisional website.
- Enriching PD opportunities for teachers based on current research and current effective practices. The focus is promoting teachers' understanding and confidence. The creation of PLCs was introduced for the first time and occurred progressively and naturally with EAs and teachers. Staff is exposed to books, articles and videos, talks, creative teamwork, and conversations. All staff meetings are completely transformed based on PD and shared decision making processes. We invite guests from the board office and Linden Meadows school.
- Reinvented Student Support Team and Clinical Support Services, prioritizing how to identify and meet the needs of students while recognizing their strengths, reviewing how we run meetings and organize schedules. The focus is to be in class, supporting students and teachers. We also reviewed how to effectively plan for team meetings with teachers within same grade levels. The continuum of assessment was introduced to the team as well as effective approaches to address learning needs based on reading assessment. Principal takes part in all meetings to support staff.

- EAs feel happy being part of the shared planning process, helping our SST plan for EA meetings. There is a culture of celebrations and equity among members. We also celebrate our success and have one effective EA meeting per month.
- Program leaders collaboratively defined their roles with support from the Principal. We all worked as a team on an ongoing basis throughout the year, planning for PD sessions and how to improve the school. The leaders also offered mini-PD sessions.
- 21st century classroom and learners: Teachers were invited to visit different schools based on their PGMs and PD sessions.
- Renovations: The community feedback is very positive regarding Phase I and Phase II. Staff focused on talking with students about beautifying the school and keeping it clean through a sense of pride and who we want to be.
- Greening initiatives: Parents, members from the school community worked collaboratively with Wendy Simonson and Gord Howe, starting to change the appearance of our school grounds and focusing on a vision for further improvements. Our theme is *Cultivating Prairie Spirit* with our Sustainable Grounds Transformation Committee (SGTC). We are moving towards being a “green school”, being as paperless as possible and involving students with composting and renewed recycling experiences.
- Student council: Representatives from every classroom from every grade level is part of our student council who meet on a regular basis with a group of teachers. They’ve guided the school through monthly student centered assemblies; student initiated projects, including social justice and learning opportunities through fundraising and reaching out to community groups globally; We Day, Vow of Silence, Free the Children; common school beliefs; supporting Freddy and Kevin Noriega-Gomez’s vision to support families suffering from domestic violence. These are students in grade 7.
- Restitution: We’ve eliminated all previous disciplinary methods and narrowed it down to Restitution. Staff has been exposed to personalized training sessions with Joel Shimogi and Cindy Lévesque, two certified Restitution Trainers. We created a staff social contract, class social contracts, a school social contract, as well as bottom lines.
- Community events: Our BBQ evening in the fall, Open House and Community Café in Spring were very successful. Teachers, students, EAs and parents all contributed significantly. We also recreated our information package for parents and have included our Standard of Behaviour which is also reviewed with parents through dialogues. Other forms of community events and celebrations include, for the very first time are World Water Day and International’s Women’s Day with numerous volunteers including Joyce Bateman
- Reviewed supply lists: Based on feedback and comparisons among schools within PTSD, we are able to better suit our children’s needs in a reasonable fashion. There will be consistency among classrooms within the same grade level and a similar monetary expectation throughout the school. There will be reduced fees in all areas.
- Recreating our school culture at large based on values, focusing on relationships and our hearts, as well as having a positive feeling in the school. Staff and students are exposed to coaching experiences, helping them perceive situations differently and creatively.
- PGMs: Teachers all have scheduled appointments with the Principal. Together, they have meaningful discussions about the PGMs. In June, we all celebrate and collectively share our successes. We are including the EAs in this celebration process informally, even though they do not write PGMs. EAs do want to be part of staff and do contribute meaningfully. One EA created a craft club during the lunch hour which is helping students to develop social abilities and provides them with a safe place where they can flourish creatively and increase their self-esteem.

- Celebrations: There are ongoing celebrations through assemblies, PAC meetings, tri-conferences, EA and CSS meetings. The Principal also celebrates with the program leaders and secretaries. Staff receives a newsflash from the Principal on a weekly basis with school photos and messages validating our success. Staff appreciates working collaboratively and expresses appreciation for teambuilding opportunities. We are continually improving *Méritas*, an awards ceremony, to reflect our beliefs. This year, the category of Social Justice will be added to support such beliefs.
- We created committees as part of our school culture, incorporating building capacity
- SRO: We introduced our SRO, Chris Saint-Cyr to students and parents through an assembly and a PAC meeting. Chris comes to our community events, SST meetings, re-entry meetings and presents in class.
- Workout room: we created a workout room for staff and students
- Renewed lunch program: students eat in classrooms and are guided systematically to keep the school clean. We open up the campus for our grade 8 students in Spring and we meet with our lunch monitors to review rules, beliefs and expectations and seek for input to proceed with favorable changes. We also celebrate with them. The time allocated for students to eat and play has changed for the better.
- Connections with community members: Principal met with members at St. Paul's Anglican Church to see how we can support one another. Our students have access to this establishment during our renovations, open campus and emergency responses.
- Recess: All grade 5 and 6 students now have 3 recesses per day. There is increased monitoring of students as well as an increased rapport among teachers and students.
- Reporting to Parents: we focus on having dialogues with parents and promoting the school culture at large through our Newsletter. Parents are appreciative of the positive energy.
- BLAST: We have a new BLAST and discussed how she can best support students and staff.
- We are winners: Winner of the divisional concours d'art oratoire: Sabba Rezai; Phys. Ed. – Gold Recognition Award from Physical Education and Health Canada; students in grade 7 won a national poetry contest which was announced in the first community report this year
- We hosted divisional debates in grade 8
- Walkathon: simplified procedure and working with parents (consultation basis and support for our students)
- French music and band teacher
- Wireless network
- Promotion of visual arts through expositions during our community gatherings
- Personalized presentations in classes with special guests: Body Image & Weight Preoccupation by Women's Health Clinic Gr. 7 & 8; presentations by Pluri-elles Gr. 5 & 6 Bullying, Gr 7 & 8 Healthy Relationships ; presentations by Canadian Centre for Child Protection Gr 5 to 8; presentations from Chris Saint-Cyr, much more
- Class formations are created differently with a new process in place and Excel document

b) **Chairperson's Report (CD):**

Welcome to the AGM. Another School year has almost passed and we have gathered to place a period, or perhaps more aptly an exclamation mark at the end. For many of us it is actually a question mark. What?! The year is already over?!

The big news of the year of course - our new principal. Our principal came to us with a vision about how to make the school a better place for our children. She worked tirelessly to allow that vision to sprout and grow. She encouraged others to share their visions and to become involved

in the transformation of the school. Much of her vision has materialized. Fortunately not all of it has, there is still work to be done, You, Madame Rioux, are not yet out of work. We want you around for many more years! Our year as a parent Council has also been successful. Thanks to Carol Steel, Rachel Donner, Sheila Mitchel Dueck, and many others whose volunteer hours went far beyond the call of duty. Thank you and thank your families for sending you to the School, and sharing your time with us.

As a council we have been involved teacher appreciation, lunch program, school grounds transformation, pizza lunches and many other things.

This coming year there will be a new chair, and co-chair. Fortunately Rachel has agreed to stay on as Secretary and Chris Lepa has committed himself to a least another year as treasurer! The vacant position of chair and vice-chair give the council a chance to set a new tone, a new vision, a new and better way to run Parent Council.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as chair. I have really enjoyed spending my time with all of you parents. Your dedication and support of your kids and the school has been a reel inspiration for me. Our meetings have been fun. Always lots of laughs and always we find a way to work together to help make this place the place we want for our kids.

c) **Financial Report (CL):**

Balance in general account at the end of the year: \$1,997.69; in the milk account: \$1,407.92; in culture: \$165.25. A full report is available from Chris Lepa at lepes@mymts.net. Motion to approve Treasurer's Report: RD; 2nd; CS; carried.

4. New Business

a) **Election of ACSL Executive:** motion to affirm RD and CS in their existing positions (secretary and treasurer) for next year by CS; 2nd MF; carried.

b) motion to appoint NA as co-chair for next year by SK; 2nd CS; carried (Thank you, Neil!)

c) motion to affirm CH, MB, SK, CL as members at large by CS; 2nd RD; carried.
Second co-chair needed; RD to send notice to Roxanne.

5. Adjournment and next meeting:

Next meeting, June 10, 2013; motion to adjourn by RD; carried.