

Minutes of the EVA ACSL Monday, April 9, 2012

Attendees: James Allum, Annette Bonneteau, Rachel Donner, Cal Dueck, Maria Fonseca, Sheryl Hague, Kim Huebner, Wanda Knook, Signy Kuch, Chris Lepa, Karine Rioux, Carol Steel, Judy Stevens, Peter Ward

Regrets: Shirley Zaporzan

1. Introductions:

- welcome to our special guest, James Allum, MLA Fort Garry-Riverview. He has visited almost all the parent councils in the high schools and middle schools in his riding; is a strong believer in French Immersion (all three of his children have graduated from the program); he believes bilingualism is an important part of being Canadian; he's attending the meeting to listen and to see if he can help. Feel free to contact him regarding any issue at any time (JA);
- Special thanks to JA for coming to the school's activities surrounding International Women's Day (KR).
- a) **Approval of agenda with additions:** motion by JS, 2nd by CS, carried
- b) **Approval of March 2012 minutes:** motion JS, 2nd MF, carried

2. Regular Reports

a) Good News Sharing:

- great so see lots of teachers stepping up and working with the kids on extra-curricular activities and teams (e.g. badminton); nice to see new sports teams being introduced at the school (soccer) (RD);
- the Grade 8 open campus seems to have made the students really happy (RD, CS); thanks to the Grade 8 teachers for their creative work and planning to make it a successful transition for the students;
- transition from Crane to middle school is going very well, thanks to the teachers' insight and compassion (MF);
- the Community Evening was very successful (KR); estimated attendance was about 150 (PW); will it become an annual event? (JA); they're considering combining it with the Open House; parent input is welcome (KR);
- Grade 6 field trip to the WAG was a success; the kids really loved the exhibit (Norman Rockwell) and they behaved very well; the same trip is planned for the grade 7s and 8s (JS); how do you transport them there? (JA); by school bus, paid for by a fee charged to parents (JS).

b) Principal's Report (KR):

- The month of March will filled with amazing events at ÉVA, as described in our April newsletter. Thank you, dear parents, for all your significant contributions in helping us promote our school during our Open House and community event. Thank you also for enabling your children in grades 7 & 8 to help us out during such events, which bring our community together;
- Students at École St. Avila will be meeting KR on Thursday, April 12th, like our grade 4 students from École Crane in February. This is a worthwhile experience, enabling students to

find answers to their questions and reassure them about all the opportunities presented at ÉVA;

- Staff had a wonderful PD opportunity in March, mostly based on the 21st century learner, led by David Wall; it dealt mostly with how to incorporate hand-held devices into the classrooms; realistically, the kids are going there, so as educators we need to figure out how to keep up with them and ultimately how to lead through the use of changing technology;
- JS is already seeing that with her Art students;
- It won't be formalized until next year but it may be incorporated into next year's school plan;
- Earlier this year, PTSD's board adopted three expectations for student learning: all students should be engaged in their learning, should graduate, and should attain numeracy and literacy objectives for each grade. It also has proudly adopted a belief statement in addition to these objectives. See the statement at:
<http://www.pembinatrails.ca/generalinfo/index.html>;
- We at ÉVA are looking forward to working in partnership to ensure our students are personally and intellectually engaged in their learning opportunities.

c) Treasurer's Report (CL):

- Total amount we are holding right now: \$6,899.62. This is sub-divided into three accounts: PAC general account: \$1,652.26 (this money comes from things like pizza lunches, Lunch Lady); milk account: \$5,082.10 (with an estimated \$1,400-\$1,600 to be remaining by the end of June); culture account: \$165.26;
- What are some recommendations for what to do with the milk account money? (CS);
- Recommendation to keep a buffer of at least \$1,500 for fridge repairs, or other unforeseen expenses based on experiences at Crane (KH);
- Monthly profit of the milk program is approximately \$104 (CL);
- Would you consider lowering the price (SK)? The price of milk can go up without warning at any time and we barely have a margin in chocolate milk as it is (CS); better to keep the buffer just in case prices go up mid-year, as the money is collected only twice a year;
- Motion to leave the milk account untouched for now (SH); 2nd JS; carried;
- Motion to accept the treasurer's report: PW; 2nd AB; carried.
- The full report can be obtained from Chris Lepa, lepes@mymts.net.

d) School Grounds Transformation (SK):

- next meeting is April 13 where we will see the first drawings;
- we have raised just shy of \$10,000 so far;
- next fundraiser will be Lacoste gift cards; SGTC will get 20% of sales no matter what the total amount sold is (unlike Sobeys, which was tiered);
- grass is struggling to grow on the berms; JG's class will re-seed and make appropriate bilingual and friendly signage encouraging students to stay off them while the seeds germinate; that's not their permanent location so we're not going to spend a lot of money or go to heroic measures; Dan Bickerton will fix the fencing around them and put wood chips around the boulders, which are in a bit of a low-lying area;

- the efforts of the SGTC and the students have been in the media three times this year – congratulations (KR);
- RD will figure out an inexpensive way to display some of the kids' drawings on the bulletin board area outside the office.

e) Lunch Program (RD):

- The transition to an open campus for the Grade 8s has gone very well; they are happy;
- The position of coordinator has been advertised in the school newsletter and will appear on the website, as well as the Fort Garry CC and Wildwood CC newsletters;
- Please draft a procedure for hiring the new coordinator (CD); ACTION: RD and KR to do so and send to CD;
- Are any of the current supervisors high school students? (SH); no; staffing levels are good (for once) and many of them are EAs (RD).

f) Milk Program (AB):

- Nothing to report;
- Thanks to Glennis for coming in early and setting up the milk each day and thanks to KR for paying for it.

3. New Business:

a) Music Camp Donation Request:

- Vanessa Nowastowski has asked the council to donate money to partially offset the cost of attending a band camp over the summer; the total cost of the camp is \$180; she has asked for 50% funding for six students from grades 7 and 8
- This is a camp that Mme Hellmer's students had historically fundraised for on their own; Mme Nowastowski has not done any fundraising this year;
- Motion to donate \$300 to subsidize the cost of attendance at summer band camp, with \$165 coming from the council's culture fund and \$135 coming from the general account, to be distributed at Mme Nowastowski's discretion, keeping in mind the students' financial need, RD; 2nd SH; carried.

b) Manitoba Association of Parent Councils AGM and Conference:

- Motion to pay for up to two members of the at-large ACSL to attend CS; 2nd SH; carried.
- ACTION: RD to send Roxanne and email to forward to parents to gauge interest.

c) Pembina Trails Budget Passed (tabled)

d) Teacher Appreciation (CD)

- Sheila Mitchell-Dueck has offered to coordinate a Staff Appreciation luncheon (to include all the staff, not just teachers) but would like other volunteers to prepare the food; she has picked April 25;
- While her efforts and intention are appreciated, the council made a decision at the beginning of the year to recognize teachers by bringing them food at their monthly staff meetings, even though this does not capture all the other staff; NB that all staff are invited to the monthly meetings, not just teachers (KR, JS);
- Suggestion to do it on a smaller scale in May or June as the April date is too tight of a deadline (KH);

- ACTION: KH to request volunteers to make/organize snacks for a Friday afternoon later in the year.

4. Old Business:

a) Multi-age vs. Split Classroom Elaboration (KR)

- Nothing's finalized yet but the staff have met a couple of times to discuss what next year's 5 and 6 classes could look like;
- Combined classes have been implemented before by PTSD, but the school has to decide which model it will follow;
- In combined classrooms, both curricula are taught simultaneously to each cohort within the classroom; in a multi-age class, all the students are taught the same Grade 6 curriculum in Year 1; in Year 2, the former Grade 6 students move into Grade 7; the previous year's Grade 5s move into Grade 6 with the same teacher and learn the Grade 5 classroom, along with the present-year grade 5s; the pattern repeats in Grade 6;
- There's no such thing as a homogenous classroom anymore – teachers are having to adapt and teach at various levels all the time;
- Fundamentally, the teacher is the most important factor in students' learning opportunities;
- KR is striving for cooperative decision-making with all the staff to make sure everyone is comfortable before choosing a path; she appreciates this is something new and unknown for some; she is very willing to provide the teachers with PD opportunities to find a way to make it work for them;
- Right now Joanne Girouard has volunteered to do one multi-age class.

Motion to adjourn, MF; 2nd SH; carried.

May meeting canceled in favour of Drug Awareness Night May 14. Next meeting June 11, 7 pm, in the library.