

Minutes of the EVA ACSL Meeting – February 11, 2013 (as revised and approved by ACSL, March 11, 2013)

Attendees: Neil Arnason, Barbara Cahoon, Annette Bonneteau, Gord Howe, Robin Olfert, Kevin Olfert, Sheila Mitchell-Dueck, Daniel Friesen, Helen Friesen, Maria Fonseca, Carol Steel, Andrea Powell, Sharon Labossière, Lynn Marriott, Mitch Friesen, Karine Rioux, Peter Ward

Regrets: Krista Lamboo-Lewis, Chris Lepa, Rachel Donner

1. Approval of Agenda

Move to deal first with special presenters, first Gord Howe who will speak on three issues – moved by JM(?), RO seconded, carried.

2. Report from Gord Howe, PTSD director of Facilities and operations

a. Fuel Oil Leak in November in the basement. The School Division has determined that the fuel that leaked into the basement was the residue from a fuel oil tank that had been removed in the 1960s. Because the tank had not been there all that long, it was probably not the result of a leaky tank, more likely overfilling. During the renovations of the exterior of the school, the soil was disturbed and the fuel oil made its way into the sump pit, and when the sump pump failed, the fuel oil came up into the basement. It was determined that the fuel oil was no longer flammable, but it is noxious.

When the presence of the oil was detected, the area was quarantined. Remediation is being handled by the engineering firm AMEC. They cored holes and determined that the fuel oil was only under the boiler room. They are now gradually removing the fuel, which cannot be pumped into the city storm sewer. After the fuel oil was first detected, 20,000 litres of mixed fuel oil and water were pumped out. Initially, the air quality in the basement was fouled, but nothing has been detected upstairs and the air quality continues to be checked all the time.

Fuel oil continues to be removed as it seeps into the collection point and AMEC thinks that it will take four months to remove. The school division is trying to speed up the process by having the collection filters changed more often.

b. Condition of washrooms. Custodial foreman attended the school and problem was found in the second floor washroom and it is being repaired. Everything in the other washrooms work and the state of cleanliness is fine. The school division discovered a few years ago that significant work needed to be undertaken throughout the division to renovate washrooms and they now have two tradespeople working on the project. The first washrooms at EVA have been renovated, and the washrooms by the gym will be renovated next year. Students are encouraged to bring maintenance and cleanliness problems relating to the washrooms to the attention of the teachers.

c. Break-in. Sunday at 1:30 am there was a break-in which set off the alarms. Alarm monitoring staff and school division staff were alerted and attended the school. They were advised by the police not to enter the building until the police were present. The police attended the school at 8 am. The thieves had left the school by that time. KR held a school assembly to address any student anxiety about the break-in. The school is covered for its losses (electronic devices). The thieves knew what they were after. Staff will be reminded to keep electronics in a secure, locked, spot.

The division's IT department is implementing a video monitoring project that will cost \$2 million over six years. We are in year two.

3. Report on Community Day plans (Lynn Marriott and Mitch Friesen)

Lynn and Mitch are the co-ordinators for this year's community day to be held (tentative date) on Thursday, May 30 from about 4 pm to 7:30 pm. The first community day last March was successful and school community wishes to build on that success. Committee is planning various activities, including small team soccer games, along with other recreation and refreshments. They are expecting a budget shortfall of \$350. Are looking at Vincent Massey students for volunteers, and putting out a call for parent volunteers. Parent council will provide support in some ways to be determined (monetary contribution? Provide hot dogs? Nature of contribution to be determined later).

4. Report on Survey Results. Karine reported on survey results from 'Tell Us from Me' and 'Technology Use Survey'. The results of the former survey showed EVA levels of engagement surpassed national (division?) averages in most areas. There were over 100 responses to the Technology survey from staff students and parents. Principal concerns were security, effect on physical activity, concern over bullying and how devices will be used in classrooms. The digital technology (staff) committee continues its work to develop responses to parent concerns and policies to regulate and safeguard technology use and will provide a report at a later date.

5. Chair's Report

Chair represented parent council at Press Conference with Minister of Education held at EVA on January 16 and commented that it was excellently co-ordinated by our principal – an opportunity to raise pride in our school with students and staff.

Chair attended SGTC and agreed to work with them to update the website.

6. Principal's Report

Judy Anderson is giving a workshop on Restitution... KR will send a tweet with the links to those who are interested in attending. Parents were advised of the date (Feb. 12) and location (Ecole Golden Gate Middle School) by email.

7. Treasurer's Report (by email)

CL has developed a budget based on previous year's spending, and is projecting a surplus of about \$2,500 this year. PAC has \$33,357 in the bank in total now.

8. School Grounds Transformation

CS – much activity around grant writing including Community Places. There is some question about who would cover a shortfall in funds if the SGTC cannot raise enough to complete the phase of the project. The rebuttal must be submitted by Feb. 19, 20123. There appears to be sufficient funding for the Willow Island phase.

9. Pizza

RO – volunteers asking for help in emphasizing to students the importance of hygiene in general and wearing gloves in particular when serving the pizza. Some grade 7 and 8 students are not acting respectfully to the volunteers who make Pizza Days happen.

10. Lunch Program

RD – Nothing to report (by email).

11. Milk Program

AB – going well. Want to plan a milk spirit week and combine it with teacher appreciation and have a cookie and milk event.

12. Staff Appreciation Event

SMD – will do it concurrently with milk spirit week. CS made motion to contribute \$200 for milk spirit week activities, to be coordinated by SMD and AB. Seconded by AB and carried.

13. Pancake Day

Have a budget of \$300 and propose that PAC go ahead with event and look for volunteers. Have done juice, oranges and pancakes in the past. This year it is the day of the Optimist Festival, so 45-50 students will be served after 1:00 pm; main student body will be served between 8:30 and 9:30, so setup begins at 7:15.. NA will look for volunteers. Our SRO's (Police school resource officers) love to come to this event and have been invited to attend. NA moved to spend \$300 on Pancake Day, CS seconded, carried.

14. New Business – perception of math education in French Immersion

SMD – has noted that parents have moved children into the English system because of perception that math education in French Immersion schools is not on the same standard. SMD wishes to dispel this myth and questions why so many students are taking additional math class, and wonders if there is really a problem.

KR – for grades 5 and 6, considering numeracy evening.

SMD – is there consistency for students coming from different schools (Crane, St. Avila)?

KR – grade 5 and 6 team is taking professional development in math.

NA – concerns raised: (i) math and science is better in English schools; (ii) needs coordination with St. Avila; (iii) questions about how school is progressing in respect of the math curriculum. Suggests 15 minutes discussion at next meeting with members of math team present.

SMD – how about an evening that can show math developing over the years? SMD, NA and KR will do something.

CS – how about Band Parent Council letting us know their activities next meeting? Concurrence.

15. Good News Sharing.

BC – nice to see EVA students help out at the Crane Carnival.

Motion to adjourn. Carried.

Appendix: Principal's Report- February 2013

We, at ÉVA, are proud to celebrate *Le Festival du Voyageur*. The groupe *Ça Claque!* will perform on February 21st at 2:00 pm. As well, we will be hosting a pancake breakfast on February 22nd, 2013, because of our Parent Advisory Council's willingness to contribute in celebrating this traditional event in promoting our French culture.

A few recent articles reinforce the numerous and solid advantages of the French Immersion program. You may discover demystifications as well as beneficial information about the gift of French Immersion for our children through the following links:

www.canadianliving.com/moms/kids/french_immersion_schooling_one_parents_look_at_the_pros_and_cons.php
<http://cpf.ca/en/media/press-releases/#release-46>
www.down-syndrome.org/practice/180/

As we continue our journey towards digital citizenship, we will be sharing results of two surveys. The first one being the *Tell Them From Me* (TTFM) survey. We now have 23 new schools in Pembina Trails School Division who have participated in this survey as of 2011-2012. Students were invited to go online and fill in a survey anonymously. Results were then compiled, looking at a number of components, particularly in link with PTSD's expectations on student engagement, including a sense of belonging at school, the extent to which students value schooling outcomes and their investment in learning. We will also be sharing the results of the school-based survey in regards to technology. We have been provided with data on behalf of students, staff at large and parents. Once again, we would like to thank parents who have taken the time to fill out this survey. As we are moving forward, we now have a technology committee consisting of one teacher per grade level and numerous specialists. This committee will be working in partnership with students in preparation for our Digital Day which will occur in April 2013. In addition, this committee will be planning the next steps as a school as we are continuing to move towards our vision of 21st century classrooms. Parents are reminded to consult our section on 21st century learner posted on the main page of ÉVA's website including various links, articles and videos based on current research on the 21st century classroom, BYOD, digital citizenship and literacy.

We are proud to announce our ÉVA's brand new slogan which was created by our student body. Students at ÉVA are now known as "Our future ambassadors" (*Ambassadeurs du futur*).

Lynn Marriott and Mitch Friesen will be talking about an upcoming community event. We received so much positive feedback on community spirit last year based on our initial community event in March, inviting families from ÉVA, St. Avila, Crane and Vincent Massey. It's a great way to make connections with one another which is important for our student body.

Gord Howe, Director of Facilities & Operations in PTSD, will be joining us at 7:00 pm to provide us with an update regarding the fuel oil leak that occurred in October 2012

Karine Rioux
Principal