

Minutes of the EVA ACSL meeting Tuesday, February 15, 2011

Attendees: Julien Allard, Rachel Donner, Cal Dueck, Rudy Dueck, Patti Gair, Sheryl Hague, Helen Lepp Friesen, Janet Lucas, Sheila Mitchell-Dueck, Edith Samuels, Carol Steel

Regrets: Gail McIntosh, Caroline Mehra, Shirley Szaporzan

Call to Order: 7:04 pm

1. Introductions

- a. Motion to approve agenda with addition of Financial Report as 2c; motion by ES; 2nd by CS; carried;
- b. Motion to approve January 2011 minutes with no changes; motion by CS; 2nd by R. Dueck; carried.

2. Regular Reports

a. Good News Happenings

- Parents welcome the fridge magnet with important school dates; maybe next year's could have the school's phone number on it (CS);
- Sewing club has been a real hit (CS) and has been extended (HLF);
- The Crane Family Dance provided a great opportunity for community connection (R. Dueck);
- The daycare has expressed its gratitude for EVA's responsiveness to the crumbling ceiling tiles in the multi-purpose room (PG);
- More than \$2,000 was raised to support student attendance at the Rocky Mountain Music Festival in Banff (ES);
- Thank you to Carol Steel for getting the student survey completed and for keeping people focused throughout the process (CD).

b. Principal's Report

- I went to an Equity and Justice meeting where I received a package composed by the Safe at Schools Ontario and Change Our World Association. The package deals with equity and inclusion in schools. This package is wonderfully done. The video is based on testimonies of young people. I am checking to see if we can use it our school.
- Further I went a seminar on "The Erosion of Public Services" sponsored by the "Social Justice Coalition".
- I participated in two grade 8 transition meetings. One meeting was to plan for February 1st meeting with parents. The parent meeting was well attended. A tour of the immersion wing was given and plenty of time was given to field questions from parents. It was a very positive meeting.
- I have spoken to my SAT link about the card given to grade 5 students inviting them to accept a bible. The board created this policy at amalgamation time. She could not share what was decided by the board at that time. Mr. Monin shared that prior to the policy representatives came to school to hand out the bibles. Presently, those who return the cards to receive the bibles, are given the bibles discretely.
- There have been two meetings with bonded contractors to visit the building prior to giving tenders. There are three contractors giving estimates. Tenders are due for the

10th of February. I have also met with Gord Howe from the school division and Gary Kowalchuck from the engineering firm overseeing the rebuild. We discussed time lines and start dates.

- Even though we pushed back our report card writing day we were able to send the report cards on the 21st. Thank you to Mme Poirier for her dedication.
- We are investigating the use of responders. We are also reviewing our electronic devices policy. Teachers asked Mr. Monin and I to contact MY and Junior High Schools to see how they are teaching responsible use of these items as well as their policies.
- We had a very successful spelling bee again this year. Merci Mme St-Pierre for having organized this successful event.
- There is a conference called French Immersion in Manitoba. This Bilingual conference is for parents as well as educators/administrators. The guest speaker is John Ralston Saul. Date: March 18th.
- Students are sponsoring a World Vision child. We asked for a dollar from each child in school on pyjama day of our spirit week. Our sponsored child is: Muhammad Ramzan, 14 years old born in the village of Chakwai, Pakistan;
- Mr. Beaudoin will be doing another term with us till the end of the year. Mme Leclercq will replace Mme Wierenga in resource and Mr. Beaudoin will replace Mme Leclercq.

Activities:

- ACSL
- FIC (French immersion Council)
- COSL(Council School leaders)
- PTCEL executive (Pembina Trails Council of Educational Leaders)
- PTCEL
- Grade eight Transition meetings
- PTAC
- Basket Ball
- Comité d'équité et de justice
- Building meetings
- Interviews for library tech

- Details provided regarding the construction schedule and elements: the work will begin in May and will be done by Red Lake Construction, which has indicated all classrooms will be ready for September occupancy; final discussion are underway and contracts are being fine-tuned; the work will begin in the grade 9 classes; temporary classrooms will be set up in the multi-purpose room; grade 9 exams will not be disrupted; grades 5, 6 and 7 will eat lunch in their classrooms (JA).

c. **Financial Report**

- We should net about \$750 from the milk program by the end of the school year (ES);
- CS advised she will not be involved in the milk program next year (2011-2012) and is looking for someone to take on her responsibilities; she currently runs the program with Sheila Mitchell-Dueck; **Action:** CS to contact Mme Poirier about advertising the vacancy in upcoming school newsletters;
- Discussion re: Parent Orientation Evening (March 10). There are several grade 5 St. Avila parents planning to attend who are on the fence about where they should send their

children for grade 7 (SM-D); those parents really need to be wooed. **Action:** SM-D to contact Mme Mercer about having her students bake something for the event;

- Discussion re: Pancake Breakfast (February 25): thank you to those in the room who volunteered (CD); milk now will be offered as well as juice (CS, SM-D);
- Detailed report available from treasurer upon request.

3. Results of Brainstorming on “creating our dream school”

- Comments seemed to fall into three general categories:
 - i. Attitude and Atmosphere
 - ii. Community Relations
 - iii. Student Activities
- We as a council now have to decide what we want to do with this information (CD);
- Discussion re: observed overlap between what the council envisions and what the students want, based on analysis of the student survey (CS) (see below).

4. New Business

a. Results of Student Survey:

- Majority of responses from the student survey point to outdoor improvements (CS);
- Second most desired change is air conditioning;
- Discussion of how a school grounds transformation committee might energize students and parents to fundraise (see below) and take ownership of the process of revamping the grounds (PG, CS, RD, SM-D); suggestions included a design contest, a running tally of fundraising prominently displayed in the school, pep rally-style assemblies;
- Ecole Crane mentioned several times as an example of a successful school grounds transformation campaign (RD, R. Dueck, CS);
- The effort needs to be driven by a committee of students, parents, teachers, etc. (JA);
- **Action:** CD to touch base with Fred Nash and Signy Kuch to see if they are still interested in being involved at a committee level;
- SM-D and RD have volunteered to serve on a committee;
- **Action:** RD to research the possibility of a grant that might allow us to hire a project manager to keep all the various elements on track and to keep volunteers from burning out;
- Discussion of how to get the message out to the students that their opinions have been heard on both points (air conditioning and outdoor improvements) (CS); no action determined as of yet;
- Motion by PG that the council will reactivate the School Grounds Transformation Committee. The committee’s mandate will be to improve school grounds based on the results of the recent student survey and the ACSL brainstorming session. The committee will present its first report at the April ACSL meeting; 2nd by JL; carried;
- General agreement that the school grounds transformation will be the primary focus of the council’s fundraising efforts.

5. Old Business

a. Fundraising

- Discussion re: Sobey's gift cards; possibility of linking with other schools to maximize our receipts (if you sell more than \$25,000 worth of cards, you get 10% back) (ES);
 - Discussion of timing of sale of cards; Fred Nash had asked to have them for sale prior to Spring Break so that people would buy them in anticipation of Easter grocery shopping;
 - That may have to be delayed in order for the school grounds fundraising campaign to begin; the sale of the cards could be used for seed money for various grant applications.
6. Motion to adjourn by SH; meeting adjourned at 8:26 pm.