

Minutes of the EVA ACSL Meeting – January 14, 2013 (as approved by ACSL, March 11, 2013)

Attendees: Neil Arnason, Annette Bonneteau, Robin Olfert, Kevin Olfert, Christopher Lepa, Karine Rioux, Sharon Simon, Barbara Cahoon, Tanya Weslak, Judy Stevens, Sandy Yap, Jennifer Kreitz, Marcia Fonseca, Walter Demczuk, Peter Ward,

Regrets: Rachel Donner, Vanessa Nowostawsky,

1. Motion to start meeting with **special presentation by the Principal and students of Henry G. Izatt school** regarding student controlled electronic devices in the classroom. Guests included school principal Peggy Hobson and PTSD digital technology consultant David Wall. Ten students also attended. Ms. Hobson outlined the evolution of digital technology in the classroom since the introduction of wireless technology 4 years ago. She mentioned that texting became a problem including surreptitious texting, but that with the acceptance of student-owned devices in the class, devices were “out in the open” and teachers could better determine when they were on and what they would be used for. Presentations by students gave an insight into how personal devices were used:

- note taking
- video making and uploading for sharing
- learning math: Khan academy.org lets students learn at their own pace while teachers can monitor progress
- sharing information
- using Publisher to make magazine-like presentations; working collaboratively
- ebooks-school library has started making ebooks available
- using computers to organise material and time management (calendar/agenda)
- learning to share material between students and using cloud computing

A discussion followed touching on issues of digital citizenship, privacy, safety. Some points that were made include:

- bullying; it was claimed that open technology lessens this through more open expression, by taking issues to the teacher (including use/misuse of Facebook and other social media) and peer policing.
- issues related to texting , emailing and tweeting in class and in free time (e.g. lunch hour).

2. **Introductions**

- a. Approval of Agenda

- b. Approval of minutes – amended – BC was not listed as being present but was – TW, JS, carried.

3. **Chair’s report**

- a. Finances – CL and NA have sorted out the signing authority. No progress on the budget but will try to progress before next meeting.

- b. MB Association of Parent Councils are having a breakfast meeting on January 19, a workshop on January 25, and AGM is coming up in May. NA will check to see if EVA PAC has its membership up to date. The one-day workshop on Jan 25 is on , "Creating a Positive School

Climate" and will address topics including Cyber-bullying, homophobia, social aggression, and racism. The AGM usually includes a keynote speaker: Barbara Coloroso was the speaker last year.

c. PAC received a brochure for Canadian Parents for French. outlining their programs...available from the chair.

d. The MB dept. of education annually funds school projects in Health and Wellness – this term is on mental health. Student groups and PACs may apply for funding. [KR – sent an email to staff and is waiting for responses].

e. A topic for the March ACSL meeting will be physical education with a presentation by Two Nations Hockey Advisory Board

g. On Wednesday, Minister of Education Nancy Allan will be at EVA to celebrate the exterior renovations.

4. **Good news sharing** – BC – grade five Christmas concert was fun. Good job.

5. **Principal's Report:** a written report was circulated with the agenda (appended below); in addition, the following topics were raised by KR

a. EVA is working on an acceptable use policy.

b. Mme Hillman is helping EVA Student Council, including helping them manage the website and come up with a catch-phrase.

c. M. Marcel, a substitute teacher, says the students at EVA are great.

d. Grade 8 debates are in March.

e. French skills of students at EVA are beyond provincial levels.

f. EVA is planning another community event, bring together students and parents from EVA, Crane and St. Avila; this time at the beginning of June. ACSL may wish to help with this event.

g. EVA is changing the dates for Report Cards to March for a better balance between terms.

h. Grade 8 workshop – S. LeClair – spirit week Feb. 11-15.

i. Restitution workshop for Parents – Diane Gosling is not in town in February, and KR will look for another presenter.

j. Madam Allard is organizing activities every day and her efforts are much appreciated.

6. **Treasurer's report**

CL – as of January 14, PAC had \$2,885.89 in account and a little over \$10,000 in milk program account. Pizza program income has been \$1090.30. Cumulatively, PAC accounts hold approximately \$30,000 (well below \$200,000) and income from passive sources is minimal (much less than \$10,000 per year).

7. **School Grounds Transformation Committee**

CL – SGTC cancelled its December meeting. It has submitted a grant request. SGTC received a quotation for Willow Island that looked like a good deal based on our specifications. Work begins when the snow melts and the ground dries. SGTC raised \$1,200.00 in the Christmas raffle. Thanks to

8. **Pizza Program**

RO – orders are due on Wednesday. Taking two deposits a year, but will accept an order up to one week before the day. Pizza days now every three weeks and January 31, 2013 is the first of the new year.

9. **Lunch Program** fromRD (by email)

- At the end of November, some of the Grade 8s expressed a strong desire to eat somewhere other than the mezzanine. Together with the teachers, administration, lunch staff and students we agreed to try having the students eat in their homerooms, provided the rooms were kept clean and the students showed an adequate level of responsibility. With one or two exceptions, it is working well. The students enjoy eating in a brighter, cleaner environment and they have been a joy to supervise, since they are happier. There are always a couple of things to tweak here and there but overall it seems to be working well;
- There has been some staff turnover, with one person leaving and one new person being hired.
- - I am submitting my resignation from the position of lunch program coordinator effective the end of June 2013.

NOTE: we need to begin search for a coordinator for next year.

10. **Milk Program**

AB – going well, nothing to report.

11. **New Business.**

TW – Crane is having its Carnival on Friday February 1, 2013 in the EVA gymnasium and is looking for EVA students to volunteer. Shifts will be 6:30 - 8:30 or 6 – 9 pm.

12. **Motion to adjourn** TW, RO, carried.

Appendix: Principal's Report- January 2013

- We are so fortunate to have enjoyed various events including an engaging a capella presentation for all our students from HOJA in November. To find out more, you may consult their website at http://hojaworld.com/the_band/whatishoja.html.
- Members of our teaching staff deepened their understanding of reading and running records with Sue Hjalmarson, PTSD's literacy consultant. Ms. Hjalmarson came a second time this school year to help teachers make proper miscue analysis, which then enables them to better guide instruction.
- ÉVA's choir made a state of the art performance at the Forks on December 19, 2012.
- Our Festiges was very enjoyable and a great way to have fun together prior to the holidays.
- We appreciated all fundraising activities that occurred in December and would like to thank Mme Hillman for having organized these to better support our students.
- We had an amazing PD session on Friday, December 7, 2012 with David Wall, PTSD's Educational Technology Consultant. Teachers were able to look deeply into inquiry, challenge based learning; digital citizenship; 21st century learning, and much more.
- As indicated in January's Newsletter, students from Henry G. Izatt School and Peggy Hobson, Principal at HGI, will be presenting digital citizenship and acceptable responsibility of technology rather than acceptable use. Since we are looking forward to this and want to have the opportunity to have a dialogue with the HGI team, they will now have the opportunity to be at ÉVA from 7:00-8:00 rather than 7:00-7:30. There will be a brief PAC meeting following the presentation with the usual agenda. Should parents only be able to attend this presentation, they are more than welcome to join us at that time.
- We are looking forward to greeting Nancy Allan, Minister of Education, on January 16, 2013
- at 1:30 for a press release in our gymnasium. All are welcome.
- We are looking forward to seeing you at our PAC meeting.

Happy New Year!