

Minutes of the EVA ACSL Meeting – Monday, January 13, 2014 (as approved at Feb. 10 PAC)

Attendees: Neil Arnason, Annette Bonneteau, Barb Cahoon, Marcia Fonseca, Mélanie Barnabé, Mike Deneka, Vanessa Nowastowski, Shannon Tipping

Regrets: Elan Stemkoski, Chris Lepa, Robyn Olfert, Peter Ward

1. Introductions

- a. Approval of Agenda: approved
- b. Approval of Minutes of November 18, 2013. The minutes were not available for approval as the notes for the minutes were lost. If they are located, minutes will be presented at the next meeting.

2. Matters arising: there were no items of old business

3. Regular reports:

a. Music Program

* VN presented PAC with a card signed by Grade 7 and 8 band members, thanking them for the funds raised for the band program through the Peak of the Market Fundraiser.

* The Christmas concert was a big success. VN reported that the bake sale raised \$700 and the raffle for the “best seat in the house” raised \$225. This money is used to pay for transportation to music events.

* This month there will be a “band-a-thon” (Friday night) sleepover at the school. The students will get a pizza supper on Friday and parents are doing pancake breakfast on Saturday morning. Students will participate in sectionals led by clinicians, and ensembles. She is looking for more chaperones for this event.

* upcoming events: February is Optimists Festival; January is Brandon Jazz Festival.

b. Good News Sharing:

* Kudos to the grade 5 and 6 for their inventive Christmas Fairy Tale drama

* Kids enjoyed the volleyball tournament in December... thanks to Kim Peppler for taking this on.

* spirit week in December at the initiative of the Grade 6’s helped lift spirits and take everyone’s mind off the cold weather.

c. Chair’s report:

* *Peak of the Market Fundraiser.* because there was no December meeting, NA reported he did not have a chance to record thanks to those who helped out on Nov. 27: Wanda Knook for organising and doing the orders and money collection, my colleague at the UofM, Dereck Meek for helping unload the truck, Toni Anderson and Tracey Falconer for managing order pickup, and the grade 7 and 8 band students who helped sort the orders (very efficiently, as the truck was late).

* *Computer Science Week “Hour of Code”* December 12-13 we had an EVA parent, Mike Domaratski, lead seminars on coding with several classes. This was part of the international Computer Science week and special apps were available to demonstrate how to code and

provide hands-on experience. NA attended one of these classes and was impressed at the enthusiasm of the students.

* *SGTC* NA reported he attended the SGTC meeting on Dec. 10 and was impressed with the scope of activities of the committee and dedication of the committee members. Paperwork to obtain awarded Grant funds to complete phase 2 and start phase 3 are being completed, further grant applications are in the works, and planning for phase 3 is well advanced. The next meeting is Wednesday, January 22.

* *MAPC Chairperson's Breakfast*. This is to be held on Saturday, Feb. 1 at the Victoria Inn near the airport. This is a good networking opportunity to share concerns and experience with other parent councils; this year discussions on safety in school environments, PAC-run lunch programs, and developing a more effective PAC are planned. Unfortunately, NA is unable to attend.

* *Lunch program receipts*. These were mailed out last week. Co-chair PW advised (by email) that these can be used as a deduction via the child care expense schedule of the parent's tax return. The receipts themselves do not need to be attached to the returns but should be kept with the parent's tax records.

d. **Principal's report:**

* a detailed Principal's report was handed out and reviewed (see Appendix). There was discussion about item 1 (class size and projections): the division expects that total enrolment will be stable at around 270 students. The division recommends class numbers and sizes...the initial proposal involved grade 5/6 split class, but ST thinks that by making 2 smaller grade 5s and slightly larger grade 6s, that split classes can be avoided. ST asked for volunteers to attend the transition meetings with parent councils at St. Avila and Ecole Crane (see item 2). Questions for ST from the floor included request for information on the school ski trip and the plans for a Grade 8 farewell (students will be polled to see what they would like).

e. **Treasurer's Report** (Chris sends regrets but submitted accounts by email)

Amounts (to nearest \$100)

* Pak \$2800

* Milk \$7,000

f. **School Ground Transformation.** no report

g. **Lunch Program**

no report...seems to be going fine

h. **Pizza Program**

* no report...NA reported that plans are to have pizza days every second week, starting the last Thursday in January. Robyn Olfert is developing the new pizza form to cover all pizza day to the end of the school year.

i. **Milk Program...** all is good. Milk Spirit week is in April. AB will report at a later date on what this will involve

New Business.

a. **PAC activities for rest of the year..**

NA reviewed what PAC undertook last year and asked for discussion as to whether we will be doing the same again this year;

* Pancake breakfast during Festival de Voyageur Week. Last year this was held on the last Friday of Feb. and involved providing pancakes, milk, and oranges to all students in the school between 9 and 10 am. About 15 volunteers helped make and serve the food starting at 7:30 am. This year F de V is earlier so likely date is Feb. 21.

* Open house. PAC provided cookies and drinks and had an information desk. Last year this was held on Feb. 28. This year it is planned for March 6, 6-8 p.m. (individual programs for grades 5-6 and grades 7-8)

* Staff appreciation...last year run by AB and Sheila Mitchell-Dueck in conjunction with Milk spirit week in late April early May. Volunteers to help with this for this year can be sought using the volunteer forms.

* EVA community event. Last year this was on the last Thursday in May. PAC provided hotdogs, watermelon, and raw veggies for about 300 people.

Motion to Adjourn: moved, seconded. passed.

Appended: Principal's PAC Report January 2014 (to be added)



ÉCOLE VISCOUNT ALEXANDER

AMBASSEDEURS DU FUTUR ...

810 Waterford Ave Wpg, MB R3T 1G7
Phone: 204-452-8945 • Fax: 204-474-5131
www.pembinatrails.ca/viscountalexander

PRINCIPAL'S SCHOOL REPORT MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 2014

School Information:

Happy New Year and Welcome Back for 2014!

Staff Changes: Mme Wierenga is back from her maternity leave and has resumed her role as resource teacher. Mme Simard, who was working in this role during the maternity leave, has a position at Chancellor School until the end of the year. We want to thank Mme Simard for all of her work with students, staff and community. We wish her every success in her new position.

End of the Year Concerts: Thank you to all the parents and community members that attended the concerts in December. Jazz bands, along with the Grade 7 and 8 bands started off the month of December with a fabulous evening of music. Thank you to Mme Nowostawski and Mme Stangl for their work with the students. The Grades 5 and 6 classes then presented their Fairytale Fumbles prior to the holidays. Mme Dombek worked with students to create the backdrops and artistic touches on stage while Ms. Kehler and Mme Nowostawski assisted students with writing the scripts. Mme Stangl and Mme Nowostawski completed the production by working on the acting and directing. Thank you to everyone that attended this concert as it provided opportunities for the community to come together and celebrate the student talent at École Viscount Alexander.

Tim Hague Senior – We were fortunate to have Mr. Hague Senior, winner of the Amazing Race Canada 2013, come to speak with students in December. He shared an inspirational message with students about always doing their best no matter what their challenge. His message resonated with students, staff and parents that attended.

Hour of Code – December 12 was the International Hour of Code. Mr. Domaratzki, Computer Science professor at the University of Manitoba and a parent, came to assist classes with the programs. As students worked through the programs, they were amazed that they were actually programming!

Manitoba Theatre for Young People – January 6 students in Grades 6-8 participated in a Middle Years presentation entitled “Dying to be Thin”. The presentation included topics from the health curriculum learning outcomes. It was nice to see parents attend the performance as well.

Basketball Season starting – Basketball season has started. Thank you to the parents and staff that have volunteered their time to coach the various basketball teams.

Next Year:

Class projections – At this time of year, we start to prepare and plan for next year. Divisional information has been shared about class information for next year. Although this is not yet formalized, it is a first draft of what classes may look like for next year. Mme Tipping will share the draft information.

School Transitions: To start the school transition process from École Crane and École St. Avila, a survey was sent to parents prior to the holidays. There were 41 parents that completed the survey (24 from Crane and 17 from St. Avila). The survey asked parents of their concerns having their child transition to a new school, questions and additional information that they would like to have about École Viscount Alexander, as well as suggestions for transition. Mme Tipping will meet with École St. Avila parents tomorrow at 7 pm to respond to their questions about transition and then at École Crane on January 20. Thank you to Mr. Arnason who will also be at the École Crane meeting to respond to any questions about parent information.

Upcoming School Events:

Band-a-thon: January 24 and 25 Mme. Nowostawski, along with staff and parent volunteers, will be hosting a band-a-thon for Grades 7 and 8 students for a sleepover in the school.

Student Council initiative – buttons/dance: Student Council will continue their We initiatives. They will be selling “We Are Love” buttons for \$2.00. All money raised will be donated to Free the Children. There are a limited supply of buttons so this will be on first come, first serve basis.

Student Council is also sponsoring a dance on the afternoon of February 14. This is currently in the initial planning stages; however, there will be options for students that do not want to attend the dance as staff has also organized alternate activities. Grades 5 and 6 teachers may also have activities in their class.

February – I Love to Read: Mr. Monin and Mme Girouard are organizing activities for I Love to Read during the month of February.

Exploratory Band for Grade 6: Also in the month of February, Mme Nowostawski will be starting to work with the Grade 6 students at École Viscount and at École St. Avila to start exploring band instruments for next year. Later in the year students will need to choose either band or art for their option the following year as they are unable to take both options.

Paining Bulletin Boards: Staff members have started to paint bulletin boards in the halls. If parents would like to assist at any time, please contact the office.

Intramurals: In December and last week, intramurals were organized for students.

Reminder is school on January 24: Just a reminder that the January 24 PD day was rescheduled in November to accommodate additional times for parents to meet with teachers. Therefore January 24 is a regular school day.

Conferences February 11/13: Our next set of conferences will be held the evening of February 11 and 13.

February 3 – PD day: February 3 is a PD day across Winnipeg. Staff will be exploring various formats for student portfolios at all grade levels and subject areas.

February Art initiatives: Mme Dombek is exploring various art options with community artists – a mosaic tile specialist and print making. She is currently starting to organize an art activity for Grade 7 and 8 art students during their band festivals in February.

Calendar:

January 14 – St. Avila Parent Meeting/SGTC meeting

January 17 – Grade 7 Band Presentations

January 20 – Crane Parent Meeting

January 23 – Grade 6 immunization

January 24 – SCHOOL DAY

January 24/25 – Band-a-thon sleepover

February 3 – Metro PD Day

February 11/13 – Conferences in the evening

February 14 – School Dance

February 17 – Louis Riel Day (No School)