

Minutes of the EVA ACSL Meeting, June 11, 2012

Attendees: Neil Arnason, Mélanie Barnabé, Annette Bonneteau, Rachel Donner, Cal Dueck, Marcia Fonseca, Sheryl Hague, Signy Kuch, Christopher Lepa, Janet Froese Lucas, Karine Rioux, Pam Sawatzky, Wendy Simonsen, Carol Steel, Judy Stevens, Amy Wall, Shirley Zaporzan

1. Introductions

- a) Approval of Agenda from April 9, 2012: motion by CS; 2nd MB; carried
- b) Approval of Minutes from April 9, 2012: motion by CS; 2nd by MB; carried

2. Regular Reports

- a) Good news sharing:
 - Cindy Levesque, a learning support teacher who is in the school half a day per cycle, is really helping the students she's working with (CS); she will be in the school the same amount of time next year (KR);
 - New part-time secretary is wonderful and is really fitting in (MF);
 - EVA showed really well at the Grade 7 and 8 divisional track meet (SH).

b) Principal's Report (KR):

- What a great year! Thank you, parents, for having facilitated my transition at ÉVA. I appreciate working with our PAC co-chairs, Cal Dueck, Carol Steel as well as all parents throughout the year;
- Congratulations, Nolan Ward, for your creative participation in the heritage fair project. We can all access the video at:
<http://canadashistory.ca/Kids/YoungCitizens/Profiles/2012/Nolan-W.aspx>. Nolan was one of 200 Heritage Fair projects selected from across Canada. This coming Tuesday evening, Nolan has been invited to a reception by the Lieutenant-Governor for the Red River Heritage Fair winners. If his is one of the six videos selected from the 200 national winners, he will get the opportunity to go to a reception hosted by the Governor-General in Ottawa towards the end of the year. There is an on-line voting component to being selected, so we hope that many will vote for Nolan so that he has a chance to go to Ottawa. We thank Mme Girouard for encouraging Nolan to submit this project in the Heritage Fair and helping him research his project;
- We are proud to be submitting our 2011-2012 Community report to the board office which will soon be posted on our website, celebrating our multiple successes this year through various changes. Thank you, parents, for working with us and supporting our students;
- We are looking forward to our Awards day on June 28 and the grade 8 farewell on June 21;
- Grade 6 students from St. Avila visited EVA in anticipation of their enrollment next year; the day was a great success with the students mingling well with their future classmates; they also participated in some band and art activities; thank you both to Mme Stevens and Mme Nowastowski for facilitating;

- Staffing news: Mme El-Gayar is moving to St. Avila School next year and will be replaced as a Grade 5 teacher by Mme Potter, who is joining us for the first time;
- When staff hear about rumours circulating among the student body, those staff members trained in threat assessment evaluate whether the rumours pose a threat to any member of the student body or to staff; all rumours are taken seriously and discussed at a staff level; measures that are taken either are pro-active or reactive, depending on the circumstances; for example, with the graffiti in the bathrooms;
- School supply lists will be unified among grade levels for next year, leading to less waste and less expense for parents;
- Is there an option to opt out of certain supplies on the list? (SH); no (KR);
- Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) will be phased in slowly; goals won't be set immediately; is there a concern re: different operating platforms? (MB); no, it all works out (KR);
- Does the school recommend a particular device? (CS); we're not there yet; hopefully we'll have a clearer idea of our needs next year;
- The school is looking at a portable lab for families that don't have access to devices;
- Awards ceremony/Méritas will be awarded based on citizenship and social justice, not marks, this year;
- What is the committee's opinion on the need to carpool to activities like Fun Mountain and GeoCache at the Forks? (KR); not thrilled (RD, others); suggestion to have Grade 8s take Rapid Transit to the Forks; KR to look into it with staff;
- We welcome Marnie Minkus who is replacing Chris Saint-Cyr for the month of June. Marnie will be joining us during our Alexandorama on June 20;
- We are hoping each one of you will have a safe and relaxing summer; merci for the wonderful year.

c) Treasurer's Report (CL):

- Balance in general account at the end of the year: \$1,997.69; in the milk account: \$1,407.92; in culture: \$165.25. A full report is available from Chris Lepa at lepes@mymts.net. Motion to approve Treasurer's Report: RD; 2nd; CS; carried.

d) School Grounds Transformation (SK and CS):

- Welcome Wendy Simonson, landscape architect with Evergreen Canada and PTSD;
- Project history was briefly revisited; draft plan revealed; complete plan can be seen on the new SGTC billboard outside the office;
- Huge thanks to Natasha Lowenthal for designing and creating the billboard;
- General discussion of benefits of natural playscapes for school children;
- Motion to approve the plan as presented (but not necessarily final for construction) for presentation to stakeholders, AB; 2nd JL; carried;
- The SGTC was awarded a \$6,000 grant that must be used by the end of June; the committee would like to use it to create the path from Willow Island to The Woods, one berm and the new long jump area;
- Motion to approve this expenditure by SZ; 2nd SH; carried; work to start asap;

- Committee is planning an open house in September; the committee will do a flyer drop to those houses withing sight of the school and make personal contact with all stakeholders;
- concern was expressed that the density of the foliage of the trees in Willow Island could be a potential safety hazard (NA); WS reassured that it will be a mix of trees and shrubs and that the bottoms of the trees will be pruned at a 6' to 8' level (depending on what's appropriate for the tree variety) to avoid creating hiding spots;

e) Lunch Program (RD):

- Lunch program letter going out soon; a social contract will be included for the 2012-2013 year, with the expectation that both parents and students will sign it indicating their agreement to abide by certain terms of conduct, etc.;
- Grade 8 will have a phased-in open campus as indicated in the newsletter that likely will start after winter break;
- RD will return for one more year as coordinator;
- Presently polling all non-EA supervisors to see what their intentions are for next year.

f) Milk Program (AB):

- AB back for another year; thank you!
- Pizza Day volunteer needed; RD to send notice to Roxanne.

3. New Business:

a) MAPC Annual Meeting (PS):

- For a complete report of her observations of the Manitoba Association of Parent Councils AGM, please contact Pam Sawatzky at pnash@shaw.ca.

4. Motion to adjourn and next meeting:

- Motion to adjourn: CS; 2nd RD; carried;
- Next meeting Monday, September 10, 2013.