

Minutes of the EVA ACSL Meeting – March 11, 2013

Attendees: Neil Arnason, Annette Bonneteau, Robyn Olfert, Kevin Olfert, Sheila Mitchell-Dueck, Kim Huebner, Christopher Lepa, Karine Rioux, Marcia Fonseca, Tanya Weslak, Judy Stevens, Lea Stirling, Helen Lepp Friesen, Mitch Friesen, Aimee Hunt, Peter Ward

Regrets: Signy Kuch, Carol Steele, Barbara Cahoun

1. Introductions

a. Approval of Agenda , CL moved, KH seconded, carried

b. Approval of minutes – Jan. 14, 2013, forgot to add CL as regrets. From Feb 11, 2013, report from organizers of EVA Community Carnival; Q (NA): what has PAC decided to contribute for carnival? A: general willingness to contribute but final form of contribution is pending. Motion to adopt minutes: CL moved, TW seconded - carried.

2. Matters arising (old business)

a. Mathé discussion which came as new business at the last meeting raised by SMD.

There is a perception that English schools, particularly Acadia Junior High, have better math education than EVA and that there may be difficulties in consistency between St. Avila and Crane. St. Avila has been emphasizing math and science.

KR – when at St. Avila, there was PD for ‘new math’.

SMD – and a math evening for ‘new math’.

KR – EVA wants to take the approach of ‘how can we help each other’ and consider the issue in light of the evidence. Based on CAR (children participate) children are succeeding in Grade 7. KR reviewed PD and activities and resources for teachers of Math. Tannis Thiessen is the PTSD resource teacher.

MF – not looking at the provincial assessment, but more subjectively in the school division, when comparing English and French Immersion schools, students at FI schools perform at a higher standard, and school division students as a whole perform higher than the national average (comparing the same curriculum). EVA is also working on connecting with Vincent Massey Collegiate.

Q? – are English terms used in math class?

MF – no

SMD – it does not matter, over time, the children learn the French terms.

MF – where did the perception come from? (i.e., that math and science are inferior at French Immersion schools).

SMD – when my children were in Grade 7, I did hear that perception and that Acadia has a high reputation in math.

KR – Acadia has a math enrichment program that goes back many years. The school division will never set up a similar program now at another school, but politically cannot end the program that operates at Acadia. But it is an exclusive program that few children get an opportunity to enter.

MF – French Immersion students consistently score higher than English school students and this year there is not a noticeable difference at EVA between students who came from Crane and St. Avila. Further, there is no ‘grouping’ of students at EVA, like there is at Acadia

There was discussion of accelerated programs and streaming: do we nurture gifted or more productive students? It was pointed out that increasingly individualised learning programs are coming that will make this issue less contentious.

3. Mike McGetrick – Two Nations Hockey

This organization has an agreement with PTSD to provide hockey programs for students from grades 7 to 9. It is a before-school skills academy and is designed to introduce hockey to boys and girls. It runs 7 am to 8 am in arenas in PTSD catchment from October 31, 2013 to January 31, 2014, three days a week. The program costs \$900 per participant. The parents have to provide the transport. It is sanctioned by Hockey Canada and the instructors are certified by Hockey Canada. There is a possibility for help with the costs, but PTSD cannot provide any financial assistance. Is asking that students sign up early and are hoping to have 20 skaters, two goalies and 2 instructors. They will be assessing skills levels but program will cater to multiple levels.

4. Chair's report

a. Pancake Breakfast. Friday, February 22 (last week of Festival de Voyageur).

- 20 volunteers; over 200 kids served milk (chocolate and white) orange slices, pancakes (plain and with chocolate chips) from 8:45 to 9:30
- preparations began at 7:30...special thanks to Carol Steel and Sheila Mitchell-Ducek for doing the buying; Carla for coffee
- Kept about 100 pancakes until noon for 50 kids away in the morning at Optimist Band Festival
- Record of supplies list and organisational tips will be posted to the website for future reference

b. Open House, February 28

- we had a table near the office door; parent council banner and brochure posted
- welcomed with cookies, veggies, fruit, coffee, juice; thanks to Sheila Michell Dueck for preparing food, including cookie trays with help of students in Mme Mercer's classroom. Tip for next year: cookies and juice are probably sufficient – that was what was eagerly consumed this time.
- thanks to Pete Ward and other volunteers for attending table.
- again, record of supplies and organisation tips will be posted.

c. MAPC – Fri-Sat May 3-4. If anyone wants to attend as our delegate see the chair before March 29.

Workshops this year are on “developing Leaders in School Communities” and on PAC administration (Updating and Developing a Constitution; Reporting PAC Financials)

d. Final Budget Consultation for PTSD took place in late February... we did not send a delegate.

e. Support Cheque: The annual support cheque from PTSD (\$375) was located after a nudge (to NA) from the board finance officer and has now been deposited by the treasurer.

f. Search for a new Superintendent of Education is underway as Lawrence Lussier is retiring. There was a request for input via a survey in February (closed March 6)... we did not have input.

5. Good news sharing – Thanks again to the EVA kids who helped with the Crane Carnival.

6. Principal's Report (written report, circulated by email prior to meeting, is appended)

a. Technology – part of the subcommittee of 21st century learners and they are working on the questions provided by parents at an earlier meeting. The committee now has a 22 page document and is still working on it.

b. Ski Trip (grades 6 and 7) – KH - my child loved it and has been two years.

KR – helmets have been mandatory, but wrist guards are optional. One student hurt his/her wrist this year.

KH – If the worst that happened, from a safety standpoint, was one bruised wrist, that was a great result.

KR – kudos also to the staff who arranged for fun activities for the students who did not go on the ski trip.

Especially Elena Joffrin (sp?) who took the lead, there were stations, and crepes!

- c. Further questions about electronic devices in classrooms, but topic put off until the stand alone meeting on the subject.
7. Treasurer's report
Gave an update on amounts in the various accounts: balances: approx \$6,000 in general account and \$14,000 in milk account.
 8. School Grounds Transformation
CL - \$5000 grant from Manitoba Hydro for forest enhancement and the City is looking at a Community Incentives Grant.
NA – are there enough funds to complete Willow Island?
CL – it will be close with the Community Incentives Grant.
KH – finds that fundraising material is distributed with too little lead time before forms/money are due.
 9. Pizza
RO – its going well, and gave a summary regarding gloves (and their use).
 10. Lunch Program
Rachel Donner is resigning at the end of the school year and we need a replacement. Glynnis is also leaving. These are paid positions.
 11. Milk Program
AB – going well but we do not have a date for spirit week.
 12. New Business.
KH – will grade 8 students be transitioning to more freedom over lunch in March, ie., will they be able to leave the school grounds?
KR – yes but there are restrictions and parental consent is required. School does an orientation for Grade 8's so they know how long it takes to walk to various vendors (7-eleven, etc.) and get back to school on time
 13. Motion to adjourn TW, seconded RO, carried.

Appendix: Principal's Report- March 2013

As noted in our latest Newsletter, we are proud of our students' accomplishments and experiences at ÉVA during the month of February. We would like to thank families who showed support for our band program on February 23, 2013.

During our PAC meeting this month, Mike McGetrick will be joining us to promote Pembina Trails School Division's Grassroots Hockey Program. A letter was sent home on February 21, 2013 with information about this program.

Last month, we had a successful lunch monitor's meeting with positive feedback about student behaviour and the structure of our lunch hour. We are fortunate to have Mme Goltz's craft club where students can express their talents in a nurturing environment during lunch time, particularly when the weather is gloomy.

A few parents and Mme Rioux went to see Judy Anderson's My Child is a Pleasure presentation, based on Restitution. Dr. Anderson made links with research from Alphonse Kohn regarding the detrimental effects of rewards and punishment. She also mentioned Daniel Pink's research on 21st century skills. Parents gained a better understanding on what drives our behaviour, various positions of control we take when family members or co-workers behave a certain way. We were also exposed to rules and beliefs, while thinking about how we can work things through based on Dr. William Glasser's basic needs. Finally were exposed to strategies enabling us to strengthen our relationships.

Our staff will be joining the one at Beaverlodge in PTSD on the evening of March 6th and all day

on March 15th. Our professional development session will be presented by Joel Shimogi, a certified Restitution Trainer teaching Mathematics at Dakota Collegiate. We will be deepening our Restitution journey through Restitution II training.

This workshop is designed to assist staff to assess our current practices in our schools and ask ourselves, “Is what we are doing now getting us what we want?” This course will outline the ways in which Restitution can impact on the system by using school beliefs. Our custodians, secretaries and Educational Assistants will be joining us as well in addition to our School Resource Officers in PTSD.

We are looking forward to celebrating International’s Women’s Day in conjunction with Pink Day in April.

Karine Rioux
Principal