

## Minutes of the EVA ACSL Meeting – May 13, 2013

**Attendees:** Neil Arnason, Barbara Cahoun, Annette Bonneteau, Sheila Mitchell-Dueck, Helen Lepp Friesen, Marcia Fonseca, Christopher Lepa, Judy Stevens, Kim Pepler, Karine Rioux, Peter Ward,

**Regrets:** Robin Olfert, Kevin Olfert, Tanya Weslak

### 1. **Approval of Agenda**

moved by AB, seconded, carried. Minutes from the March 11 meeting were approved.

### 2. **Mathé**

**Kim Pepler**, speaking on behalf of grades 5 and 6 teachers, gave a special presentation on their approach to mathematics teaching. She started by asking why it is socially acceptable to be “not good in math” and how to combat attitudes such as “I can’t do math”, or “I don’t like math”.

Teachers strive for a deeper rather than broader approach to teaching math; with understanding there is longer term retention and an ability to work things out, even if you forget the formula.

Kids need to have basic math skills. Text used is “Math Makes Sense” which stresses that math is about pattern, and things adding up (equations). It is logical, practical and objective. Math facts (times tables) are important for later topics (ratio and proportion, long division, etc.)

Some of the goals of the approach to math teaching used here are to have students:

- use math confidently to solve problems
- communicate and reason mathematically
- appreciate and value math
- make connections between math and its applications
- commit to lifelong learning
- become mathematically literate adults and use math to contribute to society

Classroom teaching makes use of a variety of math supplies for modelling/teaching math concepts.

Teachers want students to exhibit a positive attitude, engage and persevere at math tasks and projects, contribute to mathematical discussions, exhibit curiosity and take risks in mathematical tasks. Focus is on problem-based learning.

English/French terms are for practical purposes similar. Students have to learn a new word or concept and French is enrichment, not an impediment.

NA – when students from HGI were here, they talked about the Khan Academy for self-learning.

Would you use it?

KP – all the time and it is on the iPad. There are a lot of good sites for math enrichment and why not use them?

### 3. **Good News Sharing**

BC – chess club took part in divisional tournament. It was great.

KP – chess club part of games club, but chess became the main preoccupation

HLF – commented on the good job teaching French and how her son was able to communicate

effectively in French.

KR – French is improving here and students are doing well. EVA has done well at Art Oratoire and has developed a good reputation in such presentations.

JS – “Sight Unseen Art” student art show was last week at Polo Park, Our students' contributions were incredible and there was an amazing quality of work.

4. **Carnival.** Is on May 30.

NA – we talked about providing food and providing parent volunteers to do food preparation and serving. Hotdogs, vegetable munchies, and watermelon will be served. NA will co-ordinate this.

Motion to authorize contributing up to \$1,000 and providing parental assistance. Moved SK, CL seconded, carried.

5. **Staff Appreciation (AB and SMD)**

Provided milk-related snacks. Saputo provided yoghurt. Thanks to all for work and efforts, particularly AB and SMD.

NA – did we do anything else last year for teacher appreciation?

SMD – someone provided snacks at staff meetings . Sheryl Hague did a luncheon.

6. **Chair’s Report**

NA – nothing to report.

7. **Principal’s Report (KR)**

KR is transferring to Ecole Tuxedo Park next fall. Her replacement, Mme Tipping, will arrive during the summer.

School supplies: last year tried to collectively order school supplies from Grand & Toy. But we want to be able to reuse school supplies from year to year and this is better achieved by having parents provide the school supplies. But school has emphasized cost of supplies to teachers when they put in supplies list. We also want to keep supplies consistent across classes.

PW – if parents' again are providing school supplies, asks that teachers be flexible about what they will accept so that parents are able to reuse supplies from year to year, child to child.

KR – agreed.

Field Trips: there is a need to regulate field trips and co-ordinate across classes and monitor costs. For field trips, some teachers were more prompt and ambitious. Next year, field trips will be paid for by letters home (ask for \$5), but teachers will try to keep the maximum annual cost of field trips at \$25. Some outings are free.

Digital document: a lot of work has gone into preparing this but want to consult with incoming principal before release.

BC—in her school, use of digital devices was brought in one grade at a time rather than school-wide.

**8. Treasurer's Report**

There us \$6425 in the milk account and around \$5000 in the PAC account. A final report will be presented at the AGM.

**9. School Grounds Transformation**

Raised \$37,500 in total: \$20,000 from MB Community Places, \$5,000 Hydro, 3,500 Toyota Evergreen, \$9,000 from Community Incentives (J. Gerbasi). There is now enough for Willow Island project which involves planting 27-30 trees and shrubs, boardwalks. The gravel path will be continued and will plant 8 additional trees. The Committee has selected Viking Landscaping as the contractor.

Committee had a community information evening and five residents of the community attended (2 from the condos). No one had objections.

SK will be stepping down from the committee as her child (youngest) is graduating from EVA. Chris Lepa and Carol Steel will co-chair SGTC next year.

The LaCoste fundraiser raised \$1,250 (special thanks to grade five students who sold LaCoste gift certificates with enthusiasm).

SMD- Sobey's cards fundraiser – timing is crucial as don't want to overlap with VM (band and sports)

**10. Pizza**

By email – going great.

**11. Lunch Program**

KR – we are losing Rachel Donner and Glynnis. RD has suggested that lunch hour fees need to be raised.

Part of hiring problem is that there are not enough lunch monitors so that the job is not much fun for the monitors that there are. Will see if anyone in the Condos wants to apply. The co-ordinator job pays \$17.50 an hour and monitors \$15/hr.

**12. Milk Program**

AB – good. Covered milk spirit week.

**13. New Business – Move next meeting**

Move next meeting (and annual general meeting) from June 10 to June 17. Moved MF, seconded CL, carried.

Motion to adjourn, MF, CL seconded. Carried.