

## Minutes of the EVA ACSL Meeting – November 12, 2012

**Attendees:** Neil Arnason, Signy Kuch, Annette Bonneteau, Jodi Carmichael, Robin Olfert, Kevin Olfert, Sheila Mitchell-Dueck, Kim Huebner, Christopher Lepa, Karine Rioux, Peter Ward,

**Regrets:** Rachel Donner, Judy Stevens, Carol Steel,

### 1. Introductions

- a. Approval of Agenda
- b. Approval of minutes – amended – KH listed as being present but was not, and date was changed from September 10, 2012 to October 15, 2012 – carried.

### 2. Matters arising (old business)

- a. still no secretary – PW for this meeting
- b. KH – regarding technology discussions, hopes there is a plan to keep items safe. Grade 8 daughter had a device stolen.

### 3. Chair's report

- a. 50\$ gift certificate for Cal Dueck. RD also resigned but we had notice so were able to thank her with card and flowers. Cal sent an email saying that he enjoyed acting as chair and missed the ACSL.
- b. request regarding budget consultation. Public hearing is November 19. NA sent a letter stating that ACSL supports the school's requests and priorities.
- c. CS and NA attended the PTSD council of President's meeting on October 24. Highlights included:
  - a talk by Janice Lukes regarding writing grant applications using "water on the land" handbook which details methods used to develop a rain garden and bio-retention project at Ecole St. Avile. see [www.riversweet.ca](http://www.riversweet.ca) Education tab.
  - results of student engagement survey (over 3000 responses to "tell them from me" student survey on degree of social, intellectual, and institutional engagement). PTSD students are more engaged than the Canadian norms by all measures. KR to follow up on EVA-specific results for this survey (?)
  - Results of budget consultations – a number of areas receiving increases – facility, grounds, and renovations +6%, technology and equipment +7%, smaller classrooms, professional development, emphasis on EAL and pre-school. Some question as to which areas were going to get less funding.

### 4. Good news sharing – WE day was fun.

5. **Principal's Report** a written report was circulated with the agenda (appended below); in addition, the following topics were raised by KR
  - a. informal assembly
  - b. bio retention, apparently funding is time limited and funds will run out.
  - c. restitution training workshop held for staff
  - d. Voyage Quebec – news from R. Monnin, 20% parental interest (not necessarily participation) but needs to be 80%.

- e. staff leaves: Mme. Iveney is on maternity leave; coming to school with baby – Roots of Empathy.
  - f. Fundraising; alternatives to the spring Walkathon are being considered. Freddie and Kevin - want to fundraise for water in Africa. This is a different sort of fundraising, it is by the kids and they make it happen. Donations in lieu of teacher gifts (KH)
  - g. “gas leak” that caused school evacuation resulted from an oil smell coming from contaminated soil in the basement.
6. **Treasurer’s report**  
NA-plans to develop a budget. Past financial reports will be consulted. Will try to develop something for next meeting.
7. **School Grounds Transformation**  
SK – reported on the following:
- a. breaking down project into manageable phases and would like to see measurable progress.
  - b. Applying for grants and looking for assistance in applying for grants. Joanne Girouard is heading up grant applications. There is a possibility (?) of a \$9000 grant from the city through Jenny Girbasi’s office.
  - c. Carla Brennan and Krista Lamboo-Lewis are in charge of fundraising projects for SGTC: next fundraiser is a silent auction in conjunction with December band/choir concert. Mme Goltz is organising the auction items.
  - d. Next SGTC meeting Tuesday Nov. 20
8. **Pizza**  
RO – its going well, but really do need a room if the library is not available.
9. **Lunch Program**  
RD – nothing to report, except kids can use back of school again.
10. **Milk Program**  
AB – going well.
11. **New Business.**  
NA – event/activity planning for budget – bike racks. Postpone discussion.  
SMD – did we decide about teacher appreciation? Last year’s two events (in May, June) were reviewed. It will take about 10 or 12 parents to organise and carry out events.  
milk spirit week, NA – will look for volunteers.
12. **Motion to adjourn ,** carried.

## **PRINCIPAL’S REPORT November 2012**

### **Great News**

We, at École Viscount Alexander, are very proud of our students, parents and staff. On a monthly basis, we are celebrating student achievement during assemblies, focusing on PTSD’s three expectations. Students also have the opportunity to celebrate with Mme Rioux. Such accomplishments are documented and recognized with certificates or a positive phone call to parents.

Students in grades 7 and 8 are enjoying our new workshops offered this year, encompassing all components of the artistic curriculum with dance and drama. Also, students from our French cultural workshop initiated a pancake breakfast to raise funds for Siloam Mission. They are enjoying having a leadership role in grade 8, creating fun activities for all students. In addition, grade 8 students are helping out with school activities at large, including the milk program. These students are also working in partnership with younger students as teachers pair up with one another. As for our grade 7 students taking "la radio scolaire", they enjoyed a field trip in Old St. Boniface, discovering a professional French radio station through Radio Canada. They are now hoping to expand their French communication horizons by visiting Canada's French television station. All students in grade 7 benefited from visiting Cinémental, a French movie festival, on October 25, 2012.

Students participated in a survey entitled *Tell Them From Me* in 2011-2012. We are presently looking into the data and are proud to announce that the results of students at ÉVA correspond at or beyond national standards. We will be sharing additional information during this school year as a way to celebrate our accomplishments.

Camp Assiniboia was a huge success. Mme Rioux appreciated visiting our talented musicians performing in harmony.

On November 23, we will have members from the Women's Health Clinic presenting Body Image and Weight Preoccupation to the girls in grades 5 & 6. Mme Marriott and M. Monin will be presenting such concepts to the boys in these grade levels through co-teaching.

### **Professional Development**

All teaching staff had an amazing PD opportunity in October, focusing on co-teaching as a follow-up to Graham Bruce's PD last year on Quality Teaching. Teachers are encouraged to observe one another and work in partnership through common planning and assessment practices. Val Noseworthy, Middle Years Consultant from the department of Instruction, Curriculum and Assessment Branch through Manitoba Education, co-planned and co-taught with M. Ron Monin to all teaching staff, focusing on brain based research and demonstrating various practical strategies to help increase student engagement and learning.

### **Digital Citizenship**

In December, David Wall will be offering a PD session for all teaching staff. We will be reviewing and deepening our understanding of the 21<sup>st</sup> century learner and classroom, as well as digital literacy and citizenship.

M. Ron Monin is offering lunch-and-learn sessions on Digital Literacy every week for our teaching staff. We are exposed to various programs, web sites and are learning proper usage of iPads and portable computer lab. Teachers are learning ways to use technology as one of many ways to help increase student engagement. We discuss with one another situations where the use of technology is helping all students, including those with particular learning needs.

### **Support for Parents**

In order to continue working together and informing parents about digital citizenship and literacy, we are providing parents with various articles through ÉVA's website. We encourage everyone to consult the site on a monthly basis as new articles and links will be added onto the site. Thank you, M. Monin, for this initiative.