

Minutes of the EVA ACSL Meeting – Monday November 18, 2013

Attendees: Neil Arnason, Annette Bonneteau, Kevin Olfert, Christopher Lepa, Shannon Tipping, Carol Steel, Wanda Knook, Cori-Lee Paterson, Shawna Masters, Mike Deneke, Elan Stemkoski , Peter Ward

Regrets: Barb Cahoun, Vanessa Nowastawski.

1. Introductions

Approval of Agenda , CS moved, CL seconded, carried

b. Approval of minutes of October 15, 2013 – SGTC report missing: there was a written report regarding asphalt, assembly, tulips. NA will add before posting minutes to website. Approval with this addition: AB moved, WK seconded - carried.

2. Matters arising (old business)

a. Fundraising. Peak of the Market – last year was done by SGTC but this year by PAC as it was one fundraiser too many. It requires a focussed effort over a short period. The proceeds were designated for the band program and it was publicized that is where the funds would go. Band students did the sorting and WK coordinated. Funds raised are \$1,305 with special thanks to Caroline Mehra and WOW Entertainment for their very large order.

WK – fyi, we cooperated with Ecole Crane as they had several orders that were included in EVA orders and funds were passed back to EC.

3. Chair's report

a. consulted with PAC executive re: where the Peak of the Market profits would go. Also consulted about moving PD day from January to Nov. 15 to allow more time and privacy for parent-teacher interviews .

b. attended Phase II SGTC celebrations on October 28...was impressed by school ambassadors who met guests and gave them a tour of the school ground

c. attended Remembrance day assembly... slide show of grade 5 and 6 art was effective.

d. attended Council of Presidents at PTSD on October 30 and heard presentations on:

- * budget preparation

- * performance evaluation methodology for teaching staff

- * school expansion plans for Waverly west: plans currently envisage 4 new K-8 schools (large schools for up to 600 students) and 1 HS. One dual track elementary is being built (near Kirkbridge); 2 are at land purchase stage, and others are still in approval stage.

e. Thank you card from Gabrielle Matikka received for band camp support. We received one earlier in the year from Claire Ogarenko.

f. Raised issue of how to solicit proposals for projects and activities that PAC might support. Perhaps put a form on the PAC website and circulate copies to teachers.

4. **Principal's Report**

a. ST described the school plan and means of achieving these goals: use of French, engagement, literacy, numeracy. She also reviewed the budget allocation for this year. A written report on other school activities was provided and is appended to these minutes.

5. **Good News Sharing**

NA – daughter really enjoying volleyball.

6. **Treasurer's report**

CL reviewed the balances in the PAC accounts (milk and PAC subaccounts).

7. **School Grounds Transformation** – CS reported:

a. Thank you assembly was amazing...thanks to everyone, especially the students who acted as ambassadors and for making the video.

b. CL is completing the grant report follow-up so we can get our grant money for phase 2

c. quotes received for phase 3; reviewing specs and warranties to make an informed decision. Installation next spring.

d. waiting to hear fate of (existing) play structure and asphalt repairs

e. waiting for phase 4 (outdoor classroom) specs so we can get quotes and start grant writing

f. SGTC is doing 2 fundraisers this year: Sobey's cards (in Feb/March) and Lacoste gift card sale (April/May).

g. Next meeting is December 10, 7:30 in the library. New members would be warmly welcomed

8. **Lunch Program**

ES introduced herself as the new lunch co-ordinator and provided the following report:

a. we have hired two new full time supervisors and they have been with us for just over two weeks. Both have their criminal record checks, child abuse registries, CPR/first aid and Epipen training. As well I have reviewed the lock down procedures with them as well with the part-time supervisors.

b. Shortly a third full time supervisor will be joining us. She is just waiting to receive back her criminal record check and child abuse registry. Unfortunately these forms can take up to 3 weeks. She has also completed her CPR/first aid and Epipen training. With the new hires I am happy to say we have one supervisor in each grade 5 and 6 classroom and 2 -3 in the multipurpose room to supervise the grade 7 and 8 students

c. What should be done about parents who are unable to pay the lunch program fees... we would prefer that these students be allowed to stay. Discussion followed

PW: ES to use best judgment concerning collections actions. PAC should offer some guidance.

d. ES thanked the school for the warm welcome she has received.

e. NA noted that the principal, with input from ES, has done a projection of the staff costs for the lunch program and it appears that there are sufficient funds in the lunch program account to comfortably cover the projected costs for this year. At the end of the year (June) this should be reviewed to see if changes to staffing levels, hourly wage rates and/or lunch fees are in order as the lunch program must be self-sustaining.

9. **Pizza Program**

NA: we do have parent volunteers, but would like a few more so that they could have time off. Better if 4 or 5 parents knew the routine. Pizza Program has continued to order from Slices.

10. **Milk Program**

AB: all is good.

WK: milk pricing seems advantageous, paying \$0 .95 per serving at St. Avila (\$0.75 at EVA).

11. **Music**

VN provided a written report including the following items:

a. Art Smarts. Leigh-Anne Kehler worked for 3 days with the grade 5 and 6 students to prepare their plays for the holiday concert on Dec, 19. Each class will have their own fairy tale to present.

b. Fall Big Band Workshop. Both bands participated in a half-day workshop with the Winnipeg Jazz Orchestra at the end of Oct. The students enjoyed it and we had the highest attendance of any school at the concert. The students had the opportunity to work with the WJO performers in full ensemble, improv, and sectionals. Micah Kroeker was selected to perform as part of the honour jazz band at the evening concert.

c. Camp Assiniboia (Grade 8 Band Camp). This was a 2-day retreat where grade 8 students worked in sectionals with specialists on their instruments as well as in full ensemble with each of the band teachers at VMC.

d. PTSD Middle Years Honour Band. Nine students were selected to participate in the divisional honour band under the direction of Kevin Doell from Sunrise SD. They rehearsed for 2 days and then performed a concert in the evening of Nov. 14.

e. Jazz Workshop with Ron Carter. Both jazz bands participated in a jazz workshop with Chicago's Ron Carter. RC has worked with Miles Davis and is a leading jazz educator in NA.

f. November 19. Clinton Marshall from S. Carolina will be working with grade 8 band for 2 periods.

g. Concerts: Dec. 3: Grade 7 concert band, grade 8 concert band, Morning jazz, Atelier jazz, and Percussion ensemble perform. There will be a bake sale, raffle, silent auction, silver collection.

Dec. 19 Grade 5 and 6 students will perform their play.

12. **New Business.**

none.

13. **Motion to adjourn** CS, seconded CL, carried.



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, NOVEMBER 18, 2013

School Information:

School Plan/Budget: Items shared at the November meeting.

Capital Improvements Meeting with the Division Each year the Principal meets with the division to review the facility needs. On November 8 I met with the divisional facility representatives. Our main priority this year will be painting which can be supported by our budget.

Celebration of Phase 2 Completion: Thank you to Carol S., Joanne G., Ron M, and our student ambassadors for their organization and contributions to the assembly on October 28. The student ambassadors assisted with visits around the school and our dignitaries were impressed with their thank you cards, assembly, students and the changes to the playground. A newsletter submission was written by Grade 6 students (Sam and Max) and the photographer of the photos used in the article was also from a Grade 6 student (Claire). I would like to thank all those involved with the school grounds transformation project and with the assembly. It takes a community to build a special place for our students.

Parent-student-teacher conferences: Conferences were held the evening of November 12th and November 14th, and in order to accommodate more families we reorganized one of our professional development days to allow more families to participate on November 15. Thank you to Neil for requesting feedback from parents on this initiative and to those parents that responded. The format of the conferences was altered this year for the Grades 7 and 8 students in order to respond to the request of parents to have confidentiality during the discussions. There will be a survey being sent out to parents and staff on the format and organization in order to assist us with conferences planning for next year. Our second set of conferences later in the year, February 11 and 13, will only be able to accommodate conferences in the evening as we will not have any additional professional days to reallocate as they are scheduled divisionally and in the metro area. It was important to have as many opportunities as possible for families to meet with teachers in the beginning of the year to create a good basis for home-school communication. Child care was also offered both evenings from our Grade 8 students. This will be reviewed for next year as this service was not well utilized.

Report Cards: Report cards will be sent home on December 16. Teachers had a report card writing day on December 6. Once the reports are submitted, I review them before they are sent home. Report cards will be available on-line and this was the process that was used last year. In order to verify that all accounts are working, etc. The first report will be sent home as a hard copy format but we will be asking parents to check their on-line accounts as the second reports will be sent on-line. If you have any questions about your child's report card, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher.

Community Building: This past week our family groups met for the first time with their staff member and integrated grade level group. Each group met and created a name for their group, as well as suggested names for our school mascot which students will vote on later in the year. These family groups will meet once a month to discuss school initiatives, beliefs, etc.

Remembrance Day Assembly: Thank you to all parents that attended our Remembrance Day assembly on November 8 at 10:15 am. Grade 5 students from Mme Pepler's class created Remembrance Day collages which they presented at the assembly. Representatives from each grade level read poems in French and English and our guest speaker; Major Chantal Foster spoke to the students. Our next assembly will be held on December 10 At 8:40 am And we are in the process of organizing Mr. Hagues, one of the winning team members of Amazing Race, to come and speak to the students.

Étoile du Mois: At each of our monthly assemblies, students are highlighted and awarded the Étoile du Mois (Star of the Month) for each class. Students are awarded a certificate and then their photo is taken for our bulletin board in the hallway. Reasons for the award vary depending on the classroom – speaking French, being a good citizen, using good listening skills are just a few examples. During the presentation student names are announced and the reason for the award is described before the student receives their certificate. Mme Boock and Mme Marriott organize this initiative with certificates, frames, etc. Congratulations to our winners in October and November!

Band Camp/Art Days: On November 5 and 6, the Grade 8 band students along with Ms. Nowostawski and three other staff members (Mr. Bissonnette, Mme Leclercq, Mme Stangl), went to Camp Assiniboia to work with clinicians during the annual band camp. Students had a wonderful time not only fine tuning their musical abilities but also participating in camp activities. During this time, the Grade 8 art students had two days focused on art techniques. November 5 they went to an all-day art workshop at the WAG (Winnipeg Art Gallery) where they did sketching with charcoal. This complemented their art techniques that they were doing in class. On November 6 they worked with our divisional art consultant, Mr. Cameron Cross, who created plaster gauze masks with them. Ms. Dombek, Mme Huot and Mme Hillman assisted with this project.

Middle Years Honour Band: Members of the Grade 8 Honour Band participated in clinical workshops on November 13 and 14. The final concert was held on November 14 at 7:30 pm where students played four pieces that they had worked on during the two days and each student was presented with a certificate. Our students along with Ms. Nowostawski did a fantastic job!

Band Workshop: Jazz students worked with Ron Carter workshop to perfect their jazz techniques on November 15. Even though this was a conference day and a professional development day, students came to school to work on their musical talents with this famous musician.

Winter Concerts: Grades 5 and 6 students will be presenting their play that they created with Ms. Keller on December 19 and the Grades 7 and 8 students will be presenting their concert on December 3. We look forward to welcoming our parent community to these events.

Fundraising Initiatives:

- Parent Council Peak of the Market campaign with proceeds going to the Band program. Delivery date is on November 27.
- Poinsettia sales are currently underway. This is a fundraising initiative and poinsettias that are sold will go into the students account for those students that sell the items. Staff members that sell items the funds go into a fund to assist students with financial challenges. Delivery date December 11.
- Mom's Pantry fundraiser is also for student accounts and the final date is to be determined.
- This Friday is the final date to submit Mom's Pantry and pointsettia orders.

Safety Concern/Parking Lot: Last year there was a concern that was raised to the school safety committee regarding the staff parking lot as students were walking through the parking lot, parents were dropping off, staff was trying to park, etc. Concerns were raised with accidents, as well as student and staff safety. At this time

there were signs that were ordered through the school division which we are still waiting to have installed. At our first safety meeting held in October, this continued to be a concern. Following our meeting, one of the committee members reminded parents that the drops off areas are on either Lyon or Waterford Avenue. Since our meeting, I've been exploring options and suggestions brought forward by parents and working with the Divisional Safety, Health & Environment Officer to find the safest option for students. Options include discussions with the city regarding a drop off location, investigating cross guards, investigation of building a drop off loop, creating side walk, etc. Once there has been a final decision, a letter will be sent home communicating this to parents. This is a concern in many schools and hopefully we can work together to find a safe solution for our students.

Next Year Transition: I've been in contact with both École Crane and École St. Avila to facilitate the transition with the Grade 5 and 7 students to École Viscount Alexander next year. I'm currently organizing a survey to be sent to these parent communities to inquire questions or concerns that parents would like to have addressed prior to the transition later in the year, as well as their input into the organization of the transitional activities. I'm hoping to attend the January Parent Council meetings at both schools to address the concerns and to talk about École Viscount Alexander. Mr. Monin is currently working on a visual presentation of the school to share at these meetings. It would be helpful if a former/current parent representative from each school would attend the meeting with me to respond to any questions that parents may have about the school community? Former students from each school will be involved during the student transitions.

Working as a Family of Schools: I attended a meeting this month at Vincent Massey Collegiate that involved administration from Vincent Massey, along with all administrators for the feeder schools – Elementary, Middle School, French and English. Our discussion consisted of focusing on the divisional expectation of graduation. Our hope is that these discussions will be on-going during the year to assist with student transition into high school and assist with consistency in student learning.

Girlz Jam: Five Grade 8 students will be participating in an all day workshop focusing on healthy relationships, body acceptance, and anti-bullying. This is a divisional initiative that will take place at Westwood Community Church. It is a workshop that allows learning and growing opportunities for young women and inspires them to reach their full potential.

Hand-on Techno Trades: This is another divisional initiative with 200 Grade 8s in the division participating with 18 Grade 8 spots given to École Viscount Alexander students. This will be held at Winnipeg Technical College and offers students the opportunity to explore career opportunities and skills in the areas such as welding, auto mechanics, carpentry, culinary arts, and hairstyling. Grade 8 students were asked to write a paragraph outlining skills they would hope to learn during this workshop so that the selection committee could pick 18 students to attend.

Live Different Presentation: November 25, Grades 7 and 8 students will participate in a presentation entitled Live Different. This presentation will take place at 2:15 pm in the gym. The message focuses on being positive and being yourself.

OTHER SCHOOL EVENTS

Award of Excellent Winner in Writing: École Viscount Alexander was awarded an Award of Excellence for 2013 National Creative Writing Competition for Young Writers Aged 12 – 18. One of our students Anita I. was a runner up and won a financial prize and two additional students Bronwyn B. and Emma S. received an award of excellence. Congratulations!

Crib Club: An additional club has started for students over the lunch hour on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays. Thank you to Mme Marriott, Mme Hillman, Mme Leclercq and Mr. Monin for initiating this

activity. If anyone has an area of expertise that they would like to share with students in an enrichment activity, craft area, etc over the lunch hour, please contact the school so that we can assist you with organizing this for students.

WE Day: Thirty students from École Viscount Alexander attended the We Day presentation at the MTS Center on October 30 with Mme Hillman, Mme Marriott and Mr. Monin. Students returned very enthusiastic and focused on making a change and a difference in the world. Some of the school initiatives that they have planned from this event are the following:

- We Scare Hunger – students collected non-perishable foods and we are waiting for the grand total of food that was collected.
- We Create Change - students are currently collecting money to assist with building a school. For every \$20 raised we can buy a brick to construct a school in Africa.
- We Are Love – will be held in Feb. 2014 with more information to follow at a later date.
- We Are Silent - will be held in Apr. 2014 with more information to follow at a later date.
- ABC Water Rafiki Chain – currently being explored.

A table was set up during conference time for parents to review and receive additional information about the WE Day projects.

Ski Club – Mr. Monin, along with Grades 7 and 8 staff are starting to work on preparations for the ski club this year. Students that are interested in this event participate in several activities and workshops prior to the culminating activity which is a two day ski trip in February. Additional information will be sent home in the near future.

Club de Badminton: Mme Joffrin has organized a badminton club for students afterschool.

Volleyball Teams: Volleyball season will be concluding in the next few weeks. Grades 7 and 8 teams have been participating in several games and tournaments over the season. Grade 6 students will be participating in a tournament at Chancellor School on November 25 and 27. Thank you to all the staff and parent volunteer coaches for their time coaching our students. We currently have a total of 8 volleyball teams - 2 Grade 6 teams, 2 Grade 7 teams known as Bumpers, 4 Grade 8 teams for both boys and girls teams known as Diggers and Spikers.

Upcoming School Events:

November 19	Clinton Marshall, USA Conductor, will be working with Grade 8 band
November 22	Grade 6 girls Immunization
December 3	Grade 7 and 8 Winter Concert
December 19	Grade 5 and 6 Winter Concert
December 20	Last Day of Classes
January 6	Return to School