

Minutes of the EVA ACSL November 8, 2010

Attendees: Rachel Donner, Sandra Romani, Carol Steel, Shirly Zaporzan, Sheryl Hague, Gail McIntosh, Brady Gill, Peter Ward, Kathleen Tomy, Pattie Gair, Janice Steadman, Janet Lucas, Fred Nash, Kim Peppler, Daniel Lepp Friesen, Caroline Mehra, Edith Samuels, Calu Dueck, Julien Allard

Call to Order: 7:-5 pm

1. Introductions

- a) Motion to approve agenda with change to put Lunch Lady report after lunch program report by RD, 2nd by JS; carried.
- b) Motion to approve minutes from October 2010 by GM; 2nd by KT; carried.

2. Regular Reports

a) Principal's Report

- Six leadership students attended a conference with Madame Marriott. The conference was held by the United Way;
- PD day with Fred Genesse re- confirmed for me that all children can learn more than one language;
- We have selected 15 students from grade eight to attend "Hands on Techno;"
- We have hired Jennifer Tokle for the councilor position. I have gone from class to class with her to introduce her to the students. She was a classroom teacher at HGI who is presently in the post bachelors program at U of M in specializing in counseling;
- The leadership students have organized a second spirit week with some success. They are having another bake sale to help pay for the Much Music dance.
- The dance was well attended; the technicians were sensitive to our request that the content of the videos be closely monitored;
- Grade eight band camp/and art tour: the Grade eight Band is going to camp Assiniboia for two days. The art students will tour the WAG and two art studios. There will be a pottery turning demonstration given at school the next day. Activities will be organized for that afternoon.
- The Remembrance Day ceremony will be at 10:30 on Wednesday, November 10.
- Results from the grade 8/9 ski trip survey showed a preference for a one night trip.
- The grade five and six concert will be held after the Winter break; we are also hoping to have a talent show as well.

Next year staffing

- My best guest:
11 classrooms in total
2.167 resource teachers
1 administrator
About 4.5 specialty teachers to include:
Gym, Library, Art, Music, Band, Atelier,
Total 18.5 staff

Discussion to compare 2010-2011 staffing with 2011-2012 staffing (CS):

2010-2011 School Year	2011-2012 School Year
Teachers: 20.8	Teachers (estimated): 18.5
Students: 326	Students (estimated): 275-280

Question: Will the present grade 9 teachers move to Vincent Massey Collegiate (FN)? Not necessarily (JA). Question: Why is the population at EVA projected to increase again in 2012-2013 when Crane's population is decreasing (JL)? Other feeder schools such as Bonnycastle will account for the extra students (JA).

2b) Lunch Program Report

Staffing:

- Hired one more full-time lunch supervisor; now at full complement of six;
- unsure of what will happen next year with reduced student population but RD will try to keep staffing the same in anticipation of 2012-2013;

Lunch Fees:

- lower participation rate than last year: 52 students have not paid, which represents potential income of \$4,160;
- they are mostly grade 8 and 9 students but here's the breakdown:
 - Grade 5: 3 unpaid
 - Grade 6: 7 unpaid
 - Grade 7: 5 unpaid
 - Grade 8: 10 unpaid
 - Grade 9: 27 unpaid
- Reasons for non-payment could include: i) financial; ii) don't feel they should have to pay for supervision for their older child. Comments confirming this (KT);
- Some of these students are still coming even though their fees are past due;
- Remedial steps being taken: parents who have not paid the fees will receive a letter week of November 8 informing them that they must make other plans for their child for the lunch hour, with the offer to contact JA for further discussion if necessary; starting week of November 15 students remaining at school who have not paid will be asked to leave at lunch hour by JA and RD.
- Financial hardship is a confirmed reason for 22 families; the school will pay for those students; total subsidies paid by the school: \$1,760
- Remaining fees that we hope to collect: \$2,400
- Question/discussion re: can fees for all programs be paid in one shot at the beginning of the year (DLP)? A cheque that size may not be feasible for all families (RD); that's how it was done in previous years but parents asked for a more pay-as-you-go system (ES). JA is presently compiling costs by grade to provide to parents; concern re: lack of transparency in writing just one, big cheque; parents might want the information broken down to specifics

(CH); that is how it's done at Acadia – a basic fee is charged with options specifically outlined (JA);

- Question: why are we charged an art supply fee? Aren't art supplies provided by the school (GM)? Not in Pembina Trails (JA). Further discussion of fee payment structure tabled until April meeting.

Lunch Hour Clubs:

- Email to parents requesting volunteer lunch club leaders went November 8;
- Mme Marriott is organizing lunch activities to be run by leadership students; she also is working with teachers to plan lunch hour clubs; motion by CS to allocate \$200 to buy new games for games club to be run by KP; 2nd GM; motion tabled until after budget discussion.

2c) Lunch Lady

- Only 40 students ordered for November compared with 100 in October;
- Delay in receiving the order forms may have been part of the problem; GM will try to get the forms to the teachers sooner;
- Menu choices also might have been a factor;
- Question: Can the order forms be scanned and distributed to parents directly to print out at home (RD)? GM will work with Heather Poirier on this.

2d) Chairperson's Report

- CD will respond to division's annual request for how we wish to prioritize the funds it gives to EVA; priorities are smaller classes and school grounds transformation;
- CD has information on Excellence in Teaching Award available if anyone would like to nominate a teacher;
- Recommends the Canadian Parents for French website and acknowledges JA's contribution to the organization's written materials: www.parentsforfrench.ca.
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2e) Financial Report

- \$75 received from October Lunch Lady orders;
- Receivable still outstanding to Kristel van Inveld for donation made in June 2010;
- All milk program cheques have cleared;
- Transition of signing authority in progress but needs to be accelerated so council can pay receivables;
- One student award cheque from June 2010 not cashed;
- Still have some funds earmarked: \$350 (culture); \$800 (school grounds);
- Discussion that council needs a focus for its fundraising efforts (CS); it was decided by previous councils that fundraising for big-ticket items (i.e. play structures, computers, etc.) should be the school's purview, not council's (ES); If this council wants to move back in that direction, that's fine.
- Budget can always be approved and then amended (CD);
- Question: why do some awards have a cash prize and others not (KT)? Leads to confusion and disappointment for the kids;

- Maybe council's funding for awards should be re-directed to general spending that would benefit the whole student body and award winners could be recognized another way (CM);
- There are two classes of awards: academic and non-academic achievement (ES);
- Categories should be re-visited (CM); she's willing to take it on;
- **Action:** JA to provide a list to council of all the awards offered by the school and their prizes, if any; discussion of awards tabled until December.
- Motion to give \$200 to buy new games for games club back on table; carried.
- Motion to accept proposed budget with above-mentioned change by CS; 2nd SR; carried.

3b) Parent Survey Committee

- Motion to table discussion until December by JL; 2nd PW; carried.

3c) Viscount Transition Committee

- Minutes from transition meeting held October 25 available on request; next meeting November 22; for more information, contact Janice Steadman, steadman@mts.net.

3d) School of Choice Committee

- Next meeting December 2, 7 pm, location TBD. For more information contact Gail McIntosh, gmcint@shaw.ca.

4a) Formation of School Grounds Committee

- FN, Signy Kuch, and Chris Lepa (**Action:** Gail McIntosh to confirm this with him) offered to form a committee; should have one more person (CD);
- Report requested for February meeting.

4b) Bible distribution to Grade 5 students

- Discussion re: do we as a council feel this is appropriate without an educational component (RD)?
- It is a divisional policy to allow the Gideons to offer bibles to Grade 5 students (JA);
- Pros: it allows for the opportunity to discuss religion with your child at home (CH, SZ);
- Cons: unless it has an educational component, religious organizations should not be allowed to solicit students in public schools (RD, SR, KT); there's an implicit understanding that anything that comes home from school has the endorsement of the school – should EVA be perceived as endorsing a religious group (PG)?
- Maybe do away with the direct offer to the students and only put the offer in the newsletter (KT);
- **Action:** JA to find out from division the rationale behind allowing the Gideons to offer free bibles to Grade 5 students.

Motion to adjourn at 9 pm, CM; 2nd SR; carried.