

Minutes of the EVA ACSL, October 15, 2012

Attendees:

Neil Arnason, Mélanie Barnabé, Annette Bonneteau, Sandy Braccio, Carla Brennan, Barbara Cahoon, Suzanne Campeau, Lisa Demczuk, Rachel Donner, Daniel Lepp Friesen, Marcia Fonseca, Kim Huebner, Krista Lamboo-Lewis, Christopher Lepa, Janet Lucas, Jason Mattikka, Kevin Olfert, Robyn Olfert, Cori-Lee Paterson, Karine Rioux, Debbian Robb, Elden Siemens, Carol Steel, Judy Stevens, David Wall, Peter Ward.

1. Introductions

- a. **Approval of Agenda:** motion, SB; 2nd CB; carried.
- b. **Approval of September Minutes:** motion to accept with changes, SB; 2nd CB; carried.

2. Matters Arising (old business):

- a. **December meeting:** as it conflicts with the Winter Concert, a new date of December 3 was tentatively set; if there are no pressing matters the meeting will be deferred to January; motion by RO; 2nd CS; carried.

3. Regular Reports:

a. Chair's Report (NA)

- Budget to come; NA would like to see the council support school activities other than SGTC;
- Suggestion to purchase bike racks that accommodate wider tires (JL) that could perhaps be sponsored by a local bike store (KL-L);
- **Action:** KR to check with PTSD to confirm we can have sponsored items on school property.
- Thanks to RD for serving on ACSL; new secretary needed.
- **Action:** RD and NA to try to find someone.
- Copies of the mission statement were handed out at the open house along with a volunteer form; this form also could go out with the parent information package at the beginning of the year;
- form could be redesigned to include discrete volunteer tasks and available times (like the one at Crane) (MB);
- can we have new form ready by June ACSL meeting (KR)?
- PTSD budget consultation was due Oct. 10; PTSD's priorities are available on its website; parent councils are meant to identify and rank the priorities that are important to them;
- EVA has identified five areas:
 1. Security camera outside and inside the building for student and staff safety;
 2. Technology;
 3. SGTC;
 4. Blinds in the multi-purpose room (for safety reasons);
 5. Replace classroom doors with doors that have windows (for safety reasons).

- Does the council support these objectives: Motion by CL; 2nd CB; carried;
- Council of Presidents: CS will attend the next meeting;
- Marnie Minkus will be invited to speak to the next ACSL meeting.

b. Good News Sharing:

- Pizza and milk programs running well (CS; CB);
- School looks beautiful (JL); staff have been very good sports throughout renovations (KR);
- Portable computer lab getting rave reviews from students (CS)
- The plants in the hallways look wonderful (JL); thank you, M. Bissonette (KR);
- Teachers seem more involved this year than ever (CS);
- Craft Club is amazing and really helping individual students; the ones who benefit from it the most are gravitating to it naturally; thank you, Mme Goltz (KR);
- School theatre production is really exciting to those students who are involved (BA).

c. Principal's Report (KR)

- Thanks to RD for acting as secretary and for staying on as Lunch Program Coordinator for one more year;
- There is a possibility of an evening session for parents on restitution presented by Diane Gossen and Judy Anderson; the invitation will extend to all division parents;
- Changes will be made to picture day next year that will preclude pre-payment; parents will get to see the proof prior to paying;
- Teachers want to have a fundraiser of some kind but need parental support in counting the money, the paperwork, etc. The fundraiser usually happens in October but teachers will be asked to wrap it up by Nov. 11;
- **Action:** KR to send email to all parents asking for support;
- The month of September was amazingly successful! We are hearing so much positive feedback from parents about the positive school climate;
- Our lunch monitors are noticing an improvement during the lunch hour since last year. Students are eating lunch in a respectful and friendly manner, and are enjoying using the multi-purpose room.
- Monsieur Bissonette is contributing significantly by setting up composting and recycling stations, thus enabling all of us to develop a sensitivity and responsibility towards our environment.
- On Thursday, September 27th, Grade 8 students participated in the Thin Air Winnipeg International Writers Festival. This festival was held at The Manitoba Theatre for Young People at The Forks. Students heard readings by acclaimed author Susan Nielsen, and even had the opportunity to ask her some questions. We were also thrilled to receive a signed copy of her latest book, "The Reluctant Journal of Henry K. Larsen";
- On September 24th & 25th, the following students participated in the 2012-2013 Pembina Trails Voices Chorale Fall camp: Cora Beaubien, Isabel Friesen, Olivia

Gardiner, Sadie Lowenthal, Bailee Pepper, Megan Powell, Rebecca Powell, Keely Ross, Abby Warkentin;

- On September 27 & 28, 2012, Kai-Mon Mok, a grade 6 student from Mr. Slashinsky's class, participated in the 2012-2013 Pembina Trails Voices Boys Fall camp. We congratulate all of these students and wish them success!
- We would like to thank Mme Hillman and our student council for working on recreating our school logo. Students are thrilled to have the opportunity to select our logo for the years to follow.
- At our October assembly, Mme Pepler's class did a remarkable job presenting Viscount Alexander. We appreciated meeting Constable Minkus and receiving an upbeat update on our school grounds from Carol Steel. Mme Boock introduced a way to acknowledge student achievement during our assemblies as a form of celebration. We, as staff, are also celebrating our success during staff meetings which is facilitated by our program leaders;
- During the month of October, we are looking into a PD session on co-teaching. All teaching staff in Manitoba will be taking various PD sessions on October 19th. At our staff meeting in October, we talked about what it means to be a member of a learning community, what it looks like in our school and in classrooms, and the steps required on our part in order to get there;
- The Pembina Trails Leadership Community's conference in Gimli was very inspirational. Dr. Lyn Sharratt, co-author of *Realization, The Change Imperative for Deepening District-Wide Reform*, presented how to create conditions to increase student learning for all through "supported progressive learning during which knowledge is built up" (Sharratt and Fullan, 2009, p. 22). It's based on assessment that drives literacy instruction for all staff. Sharratt explains how to work in partnership with parents. We recognize that "parents are students' first and most important teachers: sending us their best for us to ensure that they reach their potential" (Sharratt and Fullan, 2009). We, at ÉVA, thank you for having confidence in us and working collaboratively for the well-being of our future;
- Parents have a special invitation to attend a brief and transformative Restitution workshop for parents. We will discuss this further during the PAC on Monday, October 15, 2012;
- We are proud of our 2012-2013 school plan with one main priority: Developing an engaged learning community whose focus is on student growth and achievement with a raised awareness of the fundamental building blocks for student achievement. What does it mean for everyone to be a literacy, intervention teacher? Teachers are encouraged to learn from each other through observations within classrooms and other schools. Additional information will be expressed during our PAC meeting;
- We are glad to be able to offer Stéphanie Hamilton the position of Performing Arts EA once again this year;
- We are looking forward to the months to come and celebrate our success during our PAC meetings.

d. Treasurer's Report (CL):

- Closing balance at end of September in PAC account: \$1,884.11
- Balance in milk account: \$2,011.19
- Milk program raised \$11,219.29, \$1,207 of which is deferred until January;
- Anticipated net balance at the end of the school year: \$4,500;
- PW, NA need to be added as signing officers; Cal Dueck needs to be removed;
- Motion by CS to give a \$50 Starbucks gift certificate to Cal for his service; 2nd JL; carried;
- Full report available from Chis Lepa, lepes@mymts.net.

e. SGTC (CS):

- We raised around \$2,000 from Farm to School fundraiser (exact amount to come, but it's just shy of that);
- Thanks to Leslie Adrian for her hard work on that fundraiser;
- Resignations from the SGTC committee: Leslie Adrian and Rachel Donner. Thanks to both of them for their contributions;
- Committee now needs a fundraising coordinator;
- Upcoming fundraisers: Sobeys (Easter); Lacost Garden Centre (spring);
- Welcome to Krista Lamboo-Lewis who has joined the committee;
- All are welcome to committee meetings, second Tuesday of each month, 7 pm.

f. Pizza Program (CO and KO):

- They are set to go for Thursday and every two weeks after that;
- There is a student who's parent always orders extra for a fellow student who is in need of a regular lunch; thank you to those parents who show generosity in this way.

g. Lunch Program (RD):

- Recess now being held at the front of the school due to asphalt being laid in the back;
- Students are enjoying it but it feels like too many active people in too small a space;
- Construction team says the rear of the school should be available the week of October 22; should that not be the case...
- **Action:** RD to try to come up with a solution to provide students with more space.

h. Milk Program (AB):

- Grade 8 students now assisting with milk distribution and it seems to be working well.

4. New Business:

- Motion (NA): That the school develop a plan explaining the needs and uses for personal electronic devices in the classroom, and develop policies for implementation; that Parent Council and the school organise a meeting to which parents are invited to discuss the proposed plan; 2nd by PW;
- Some history: KR suggested to NA that parent council become involved in devising a strategic plan, as last June's meeting on this subject left unresolved concerns;

- ACSL needs to provide the school with some guidance on what it would like to see; this should be as detailed as possible, laying out why and how it's going to work (PW);
- PW and NA drafted a plan outline; it is available from either of them at pward316@yahoo.ca or arnason@cs.umanitoba.ca;
- PTSD policies seem out of date and are based on older technologies (i.e. desktops, not handhelds);
- Discussion of how technology is present in other schools, and how EVA students are not keeping pace with their peers; this will affect them when they enter high school (CS, DW);
- Students need to be taught how to be good digital citizens; as adults we were did not receive any instruction on this, and the consequences are all around us (DW);
- Every school in PTSD will have wireless next year (DW);
- Many parents are deeply concerned about this issue; the plan should allay those concerns and will provide a framework for those students who opt out (NA);
- What are other schools doing in this regard? Are there other plans we could work off of (MB):
- **Action:** DW to look into that;
- KR has invited staff to visit other schools where BYOD is already established;
- Suggested changes to motion: change "develop" to "provide" and ask for a deadline for producing the plan (CS);
- A tentative deadline of the February ACSL meeting is possible (KR);
- The portable lab is great but it has to be done in a strategic and disciplined way (DLF);
- Devices will be used as learning tools, not entertainment (DW);
- Concern expressed re: social implications and possible anti-social behaviour (CL-B);
- That's precisely why students have to be taught how to use devices appropriately (DW);
- Concern expressed re: inequity among students will lead to a tier/class system, which could open up students with fewer financial resources to being negatively singled out (SB);
- Inequity is a very real concern across the division, but in practical application, we have witnessed an incredible amount of cooperation and sharing among students (DW);
- What's to ensure continuity of the availability of the devices and of the training into high school (JL)?
- VMC is fast-tracked to be wireless and on this program for next year; every school in the division will have WiFi by the end of this school year; the division will become BYOD (DW);
- Thanks to the school and PTSD for hearing parental concerns and putting them front and centre (KO);
- The nature of what a "device" is needs to be refined (KO);

- Concerns expressed re: safety concerns of the Internet in general and in particular, its reach beyond the classroom; what if parents aren't ready to expose their child to it (KO)?
- It's not the devices that are the problem; students need to be taught how to use them responsibly (KL-L);
- The school administration and PTSD remains open to suggestions for what the policy/plan would look like – i.e. would the school be BYOD or would all the devices be school property and only be used in the classroom setting (KR, DW);
- Discussion/ concerns expressed re: prevention of abuse of the technology, especially with respect to cameras and the ability to post things on-line immediately (KO);
- Motion by DLL: That EVA's approach to this technology is that it be a school-based resource not one imported from home; 2nd CL;
- Discussion of what it would mean to certain students who rely on their devices to communicate with their parents to leave their devices at home;
- Opposition to motion because it seems to jump to conclusions about what steps can be put in place to regulate use of devices at school; it would be useful as part of the strategic plan to lay out an array of options; this motion narrows the scope of what could be done (NA);
- Providing a device to each student is challenging from a budgetary perspective, too (KR);
- A reminder that the culture prior to her arrival was that students were "invited" to bring their devices to school, so we're already working against that established understanding (KR);
- Vote on motion by DLF: three for, six against, two abstentions; motion defeated;
- Vote on first motion: 19 for, three against, no abstentions; motion carried;
- Motion by CS to adjourn at 8:45 pm; 2nd KL-L; carried.