

Minutes of the EVA ACSL October 2011

In attendance:

Melanie Barnabe, Annette Bonneteau, Jodi Carmichael, Rachel Donner, Sheryl Hague, Signy Kuch, Karine Rioux, Jason Matikka, Gail McIntosh, Carol Steel, Kathleen Tomy, Peter Ward, Shirley Zaporzan

Regrets: Cal Dueck

## **1. Introductions**

### **a) Approval of Agenda**

- motion by SZ; 2<sup>nd</sup> CH; carried.

### **b) Approval of Minutes from September 12, 2011**

- motion by GM; correction made to cost of milk from milk program to reflect that “the program charges only a few cents less than ... Price Chopper” (CS); 2<sup>nd</sup> PW; carried.

## **2. Regular reports**

### **a) Good News Sharing**

- there is a continued sense of happiness and excitement in the school (RD);
- the Peak of the Market fundraiser was a great success; thank you to Leslie Adrian for organizing it (SK).

### **b) Principal's Report (KR)**

- We were fortunate to have been able to have a wonderful assembly in September, showcasing our grade 5 students in Mme Gilchrist's class and grade 8 students from Mme Marriott's class. Each class will have the opportunity to present during one of our assemblies this year, as part of our school plan. Such assemblies are fully animated by students. This is a way to acknowledge, recognize and celebrate our successes in several ways, either academically, creatively, socially or environmentally. Also, two representatives per class, who are now members of our student council, presented as well and will continue to do so throughout the year. They will have the opportunity to meet with Mme Marriott and other teachers as well as with Mme Rioux on a monthly basis to discuss what we want within our school community;
- We were also pleased, as a school community, to have a presentation on behalf of Carol and Signy pertaining to the improvement of our school grounds. Carol prepared a lovely Power Point filled with photos of other school grounds within our community and Assiniboine Park's new playground. As a result, we were able to consider what we wanted to incorporate here at ÉVA. Pembina Trails School Division has approved a proposition for this fall. We also have \$2,636.77 from an alumni organization to help out with our project. So far, our school grounds are embellished with fresh sod, stones and a chain linked fence;
- Thank you, dear parents, for having taken the time to fill out the divisional survey regarding our school fees. We just obtained the results of this survey at both divisional and school levels. We appreciate the candid comments, enabling us to collectively seek to promote and sustain positive change in this domain;
- The Terry Fox Run followed by “Festigre” was a huge success. The school community was filled with energy, enthusiasm and team spirit;
- We continue to receive positive emails, phone calls and personal visits thanking us for the positive changes at ÉVA. We, as a school, feel impressed by the community support

through the fundraising and the number of parents participating at our parent council meetings. Thank you.

- Monsieur Bissonnette got married in September. We wish him all the best;
- Administrators in PTSD were attending a conference at the Elkhorn Resort for 3 days. There were sessions on the 21st Century Learner, Engagement and Quality Teaching. This experience was very worthwhile;
- Staff obtained an original retraining session in Restitution with Cindy Lévesque and Joel Shimogi, two certified Manitoba trainers. We received positive feedback from staff, stating it was a wonderful meeting;
- Many staff members are now properly trained to teach Kids in the Know. Others have taken Threat Assessment, Part I;
- We are looking forward to our Walkathon which will take place Thursday, October 20;
- All teachers in MB will be going to Special Area Groups of Educators (SAGE) this Friday (formerly know as SAG);
- The leaders and Karine are looking at ways to lead the change with PD and proper PGMs, accompanying teachers hand in hand throughout the school year for the wellbeing of our students;
- We are looking into celebrating Milk Days at some point this year. Our student council will look into this with Mme Marriott and Sheila Mitchell-Dueck. The council will also discuss several activities in link with our school plan and curriculum;
- Request for clarification of the election of the student council, as there were quite a few instances of candidates handing out small tokens to classmates prior to the election. Is this appropriate? (GM) KR will follow up to ensure it doesn't happen next year;
- Was the voting process visible or private? (MB) KR will look into that and report back in November;

#### **c. Treasurer's Report (JM)**

- regrettably, JM has to step down as treasurer due to increased work commitment (JM); thank you, Jason, for getting us up and running for this school year (CS);
- Chris Lepa has volunteered to take on the role; Chris also is the treasurer for the School Grounds Transformation Committee;
- as no one else has stepped forward, motion to acclaim Chris as ACSL treasurer (GM); 2<sup>nd</sup> PW; carried;
- thank you, Chris (CS);
- motion to accept treasurer's report for the month of October (SK); 2<sup>nd</sup> MB; carried;
- full treasurer's report available from CS on request.

#### **d. School Grounds Transformation Report**

- total raised from Peak of the Market sale: \$2,212
- the two grade 6 classes sold almost half the total;
- grade 8s did all of the unloading when the veggies arrived at the school, which was a lot of heavy lifting;
- the first elements in the transformation – nine boulders and three berms - are being installed very soon to incentivize the students and give them a tangible reward for their fundraising efforts;

- support from the division for this piece was sought and declined in the spring but with KR's encouragement we asked again this month in a meeting with KR, CS and Gord Howe from the division. We received permission to go ahead this time around (we are still waiting final approval for the berms from the division, but it is expected we will receive it quickly);
- the installation should occur the week of October 24; Dan Bickerton will do it. Thanks, Dan!
- coming up: Sobeys card sales, which should go out in November to allow for holiday shopping; forms will go out November 10, with a return deadline of November 21;
- Christmas tree and wreath sales; the supplier charges a fee to deliver our trees to Ecole Crane, so they will be delivered to EVA instead this year as there's no advantage to the Crane location;
- thank you, Signy (CS).

**e. Lunch Program (RD)**

- nothing to report;
- looking ahead to next year: will need to replace two key staff (Glennis and Rachel); let's start thinking about it now (CS);

**f. Milk Report (AB)**

- The milk program seems to be doing well after smoothing out a few bumps;
- This year we included the grade 8s; the number of participants has increased to 122, up from 82 last year;
- Thanks to Karine for being so supportive of the program;
- It seemed to be too complicated to get the students involved with counting and delivering the milk on time and the teachers not wanting the kids to miss 10 minutes of class everyday, so with Karine's support the school has hired Glennis (who is a lunch monitor) to come in earlier and get the milk delivered; this is but one example of how the school is stepping up and supporting the community's efforts;
- Viscount was the winner of Never Stop. Milk mini fridge. It is currently in the office. Thanks, Carol, for entering Viscount in the contest;
- We have to decide what to do with it. Suggestions: fill it with donated bottles of wine and raffle it off at the holiday concert (CS); use it for food for those kids who come to school without lunches (RD); or raffle it and use the proceeds to buy non-perishable food for those kids;
- Where will it be located? Suggestions: the staff room (RD); spare classroom (KR); KR to consult the staff and report back;
- One of the EAs has suggested to Glennis there a grade 8 student who should receive milk but would need funding. Is this something the council would be interested in pursuing?
- perhaps we could work into the fundraising a program that would allow milk to be purchased for students who really need it but can't afford it (JC);
- KR will consult with staff on how great the need is and report back.

**3. New Business**

**a) Survey Results**

- The results of the student and parent survey on how to spend the money raised from the walk-a-thon were:
- 92% technology (computers, iPads, Kindles, an outdoor audio system, a gym audio system, etc.);
- 97% School yard improvement and equipment;
- 94% Cultural activities (field trips, musical performances, plays, artists in the school, etc.);
- 96% Indoor activities (clubs, equipment, games, special invitees);
- 86% School Radio;
- 84% community Events
- 76% Promotion of French culture, French immersion and our school.

**b) Cost of School Supplies**

- The results of the parent survey on the cost of school supplies and additional fees will be circulated as an attachment to the minutes and are available on request from RD, [f.l.o@shaw.ca](mailto:f.l.o@shaw.ca)
- There is concern among parents about the high fees for field trips (JC) and school supplies including art supplies and dictionaries; what happens to the extra money that's requested for class-specific items (i.e. duo tangs, binders, etc.) that's not spent? (GM)
- KR will meet with staff to consolidate supply lists to try to reduce costs to parents and standardize needs among/between grades so that unused supplies can be used for further school years;
- The teachers understand that this situation needs improvement and parents can expect to see changes next year.

**4. Old Business**

**a) Awards for 2011-2012**

- The school needs to determine its stand on awards before any more discussion at the parent council level;
- KR will meet with the teachers and discuss, and will report back.

**b) Parent Council Website**

- Allison Davies will take over the website; thank you, Allison! (CS)

**c) Other Business**

- Concern expressed over a lack of information for parents on things like clubs and extra-curricular activities (choir, for example); can that be increased? (MB)
- KR will look into it and report back.

Meeting adjourned 8:05 pm; motion by SK; 2<sup>nd</sup> KT; carried.