

## Minutes of the EVA ACSL, September, 12, 2011

### Attendees:

Mélanie Barnabé, Annette Bonneteau, Rachel Donner, Cal Dueck, Michelle Dueck, Marcia Fonseca, Helen Lepp Friesen, Joanne Girouard, Kim Huebner, Wanda Knook, Signy Kuch, Sharon Labossiere, Janet Lucas, Gail McInstosh, Jason Matikka, Fred Nash, Karine Rioux, Monica Reis, Sandra Romani, Edith Samuels, Carol Steel, Ian Stirling, Kathleen Tomy, Peter Ward, Shirley Zaporzan

### 1. Introductions

- a) Approval of agenda (with changes): motion to approve, FN; 2<sup>nd</sup>, CS; carried.
- b) Approval of June 2011 minutes: motion to approve, CB; 2<sup>nd</sup>, Sk; carried

### 2. Regular reports

#### a) Good News Sharing:

- Gratitude for recess from students and parents (GM, SZ);
- Happy to see microwaves in every classroom (CS);
- Great to hear a student council will be established (CS);
- Renos look and feel great (JL);
- Gratitude for new principal's efforts (JG).

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

What a glorious start! Students are smiling and seem quite happy to have 3 recesses. We started off the year with a fantastic staff meeting where everyone felt reenergized and inspired. We talked about igniting our students and the community with creative ideas. Two of these include hearing the voice of all students, from grades 5-8 by providing them with leadership opportunities and slowly restructuring the school grounds to improve the safety of our students.

We feel so pleased to welcome new staff including:

Mélanie Curé (EA)

Rebecca Boock (gr. 7)

Vanessa Nowostawski (Music)

Stéphanie Girouard (EA)

There have been several staff changes including:

Elena Joffrin (Guidance Counsellor)

Stéphanie Leclerc (Resource)

Heba El Gayar (Resource)

Roxanne Couture-Michaud (Shared secretary between Crane and ÉVA)

Linda Korkar (Grade 8)

Valérie Armstrong (EA)

We are so thrilled with Red-Lake Construction's meticulous work. The renovations will certainly enhance our community's spirit. PTSD continues to support us in many ways and we are very thankful for this support. We are in the process of discussing and proceeding with the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of these impressive renovations, including new lockers, which will come at the end of this month. Cost of second phase is estimated at \$2.7 million. The bulk of the new construction will commence in May, with minimal disruption to classes.

Lockdown and tornado procedures will be practiced soon.

We are taking steps to become a more environmentally friendly school (including moving toward being paperless school) and have entered a contest to win \$25,000 in technology (JG). M. Bissonette (Grade 7) has offered to build compsters for each classroom.

News from the Music program: Students will no longer be placing their instruments on top of the lockers, mainly for safety reasons. They will be carefully placing their instruments in the music room.

News from the Art program in grade 7: Since there are 31 students in this class, we have two teachers who are teaching this curriculum.

We are working towards building community by creating a positive school culture with celebrations. Our first one took place on the very first day of school and was beautifully animated by Lynn Marriott. Plans for the future include staff and student "Stars of the Month," whose accomplishments will be celebrated by the school community.

Field trip budgeting: teachers are meeting to standardize field trip costs across grades. The possibility of a larger trip in Grade 8 has not been ruled out.

Restitution: tenets of this philosophy of conflict resolution through fairness and personal growth will be more completely integrated into school philosophy.

Progress reports: Even though parents seem to appreciate them, staff are not sure the students benefit from interim progress reports. New models for reporting students' progress to their parents are being examined.

The departure of the Grade 9s has left us with three extra rooms, which are being designated for science (a lab), drama, resource centre/quiet work space. The multi-purpose room will no longer serve as a lunch room or an ad-hoc classroom but will be used for special gatherings or projects.

Walkathon: the proceeds will be used to purchase recess equipment. The students are learning recess games in Phys Ed.

Karine will be practicing a visible form of leadership, including visiting classrooms on a regular basis.

Staff meeting format: is moving away from less information sharing (this can be accomplished more efficiently electronically) toward more idea sharing and professional development.

We are proud to announce that we have a completely new Student Support Team whose main focus will be to work in classrooms.

Transition time has historically been challenging for students so teachers will increase their presence in the hallways during this time.

Upcoming events:

September 15<sup>th</sup>: Meet the Teacher

September 23<sup>rd</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>: Strong Beginnings

September 29<sup>th</sup>: Say: "Cheese!"

September 30<sup>th</sup>: School entrance celebration including outdoor activities and Terry Fox Run

On October 4-6, 2011, Karine will be in Elkhorn at a PTLC conference where the main topics will be student engagement, quality teaching and 21st century classrooms.

Parent Survey: You are invited to please complete the online parent survey located on our school's website.

- What are the plans for helping Grade 8s transition to high school? (MR); they have lost certain privileges and responsibilities that might help them adapt to the increased

freedom of high school (JL); for example, EVA students will have no experience writing formal exams when they get to VMC (GM); can EVA increase Grade 8s' responsibilities to help prepare them for that? (MR) Yes (KR).

**c) Treasurer's Report (ES):**

- Detailed report available upon request; motion to accept report as presented, CS; 2<sup>nd</sup>, PW; carried;
- New treasurer elected; welcome and thank you, Jason Matikka.

**d) School Grounds Transformation Committee Report (CS, SK):**

- Welcome to the committee's treasurer, Chris Lepa;
- Our first fundraiser will be the Peak of the Market fresh vegetable sale at the beginning of October; the school keeps half the proceeds;
- On September 10, committee members toured 10 school grounds recommended by Evergreen consultant Wendy Simonson as good examples of school ground makeovers; more than 200 photos later, the committee will have a presentation ready for its first meeting of the year, to be held Wednesday, September 28 at 7 pm;
- Going forward, we will meet one hour before all PAC meetings.

**e) Lunch Program Report (RD):**

- Eating in homerooms and extended recess period are working well for everyone;
- There is now a microwave in each classroom;
- Some Grade 8s are chafing at loss of freedom to leave campus, but not an overwhelming number;
- We are adequately staffed for the time being.

**f) Milk Program (AB, CS):**

- Welcome Annette Bonneteau, new Milk Program coordinator;
- Distribution still being figured out but we will grow from last year's lessons;
- Milk price seems quite high compared to Winnipeg School Division 1, where it is subsidized at certain schools (KH); the program charges only a few cents more than at Price Chopper; the intention is not to make it a profit centre, but to ensure kids have access to milk during the day; any proceeds from the program are to be used at PAC's discretion;
- Is there any opportunity for casual milk purchase (KH); not presently, but we are open to suggestions for how that might work (CS);
- We hope to have grades 5 and 6 involved in distribution (KR, CS);

- Will kids be able to rinse and recycle the milk containers? (KT); recycling bins are present in almost every classroom; unfortunately rinsing isn't available in the rooms; lunch staff certainly will encourage them to recycle (RD).

**g) Pizza Days, Lunch Lady (FN, GM):**

- Is the council still in favour of pizza days? (FN); yes;
- A particular day of the month (i.e. the last Friday) should be designated; this would be a good thing for Grade 8s to help with FN).
- Lunch Lady will be happening again this year; forms for first order will be going out soon; the first day was mistakenly scheduled for September 23 (no school due to Strong Beginnings); GM is in the process of fixing this; ordering on-line is being encouraged.

**3. New Business:**

**a) Meet the Teacher night:**

- What information is provided at this event? (GM); homework policies, syllabi, etc.; it is sent home if parents don't attend (JG);
- Teachers will be floating in the school but not in their particular classrooms (KR); there's a general sense that parents don't know who the teachers are (GM); could they wear name tags including their names, grades and specialities? (RD); yes (KR).
- Would parents like to see something more formal? (JG); informal is fine, but teachers should be in their classrooms to orient parents and allow students to show their parents around (FN).

**b) PAC brochure:**

- Thank you to Anna Dueck for preparing a handout with PAC's mission and additional information on it; it should be ready by Meet the Teacher (September 15);
- JG has offered to include it in the package of materials she provides parents.

**c) Budget Consultation: (CS)**

- Conclusions from the PAC's brainstorming session held in January 2011 will be submitted as our recommendations, barring any objections;
- Motion to approve: SZ; 2<sup>nd</sup>, GM, carried;
- Detailed information can be obtained by request from CS.

**d) Meeting dates: (CS)**

- There are a few conflicts for the second Mondays in some months. Proposed meeting dates: October 17, November 14, December 12, January 16, February 13, March 12, April 9, May 14, June 11.

**4. Old Business:**

**a) Awards for 2011/12: tabled**

**b) Parent Council Website:**

- Looking for someone to maintain the website. If interested contact CD or CS.

Motion to adjourn: CS; 2<sup>nd</sup>, FN, carried.