

EES Parent Group Meeting Minutes

March 22, 2010 – 7 pm EES Library

In attendance: Barb Desiatnyk, Leslie Roesch, Shanna Frith, Tara Elliott, Penny Nysten, Marsha Merrick, Tanya Mason, Andrea Usick, Dana Hanson (Guidance Counsellor), Kathleen Slashinsky (EES Principal), Jennifer Carlson (Teacher Representative)

- Motion to approve meeting minutes from February 24, 2010 – Shanna, Marsha – minutes approved.

Principal's Report

- Due to a problem with a file, the swimming survey did not go out as planned with the report cards. However, they were sent out the next day.
- Bank Account for Parent Group – This is possible. We will need to take our minutes into the CU and open an account. Signing authority will need to be assigned. This will be one member of the parent group and one person from the school. Carry forward.
- Camp Wannakumbak – EES Kids could go there for a day. We would have to arrange all programming. Cost for prepared meals would be approximately \$20 per day depending on number of meals provided.
- The division is having the classrooms painted right now. It is disruptive but tolerable.
- Kindergarten next year will be full-time everyday. The teacher will be determined by the Rolling River School Division (RRSD).
- EES school staffing budget will be cut next year. It is hoped that the number of teaching positions will be maintained with creative staffing; details not determined yet.
- Upcoming Events and Important Dates –
 1. Springfest (f.k.a. Winterfest) will be held at EES on March 25, 2010 in the evening from 6:00 to 7:30 pm.
 2. Festival of Arts – the grades 1 to 3 choir will be going to Minnedosa to sing at the festival on April 7, 2010.
 3. Dental hygienist will be coming to EES to speak to all students on April 7, 2010

Unfinished Business

- Swimming lessons – 26 surveys were returned; there were 2 that were not interested in the lessons, 24 were interested.
 1. Kathleen will provide more surveys to teachers and they will send them home with those kids who have not returned surveys yet.
 2. It was suggested that we inquire with Charles Gaywish whether Rolling River First Nation (RRFN) would be interested in funding any amount of the swimming lesson fees for students from RRFN.
- Cookbook Fundraiser (www.gatebook.com)
 1. About ½ of the recipes are in so far. Most are handwritten. Jennifer will speak to teachers to see what range of recipes are in. She will email Barb to let her know.
 2. Jennifer will send out a note to students that the deadline to get recipes in is Friday March 26th. No more baking recipes please. If students don't meet this deadline they may miss out in having recipes in the cookbook. jcarlson@rrsd.mb.ca
 3. Group to work on Cookbook was formed – Barb, Leslie, and Marsha. Shanna to help with typing. The group can meet at the school in the evenings, or during the day except on school day 6.

4. EES has photos that can be used. Permission slips must be sent out to parents for the right to use photos of their kids in the cookbook.
 5. We'd like to use class photos for recipe division pages in the book. Get permission from Lifetouch.
- Fundraising letter to Lions Club (WI, church groups) - Letter is written. Kathleen to provide financial details about the playground plans. This is essential for the completion of this letter.
 - Child Care for Parent Group meetings – Dana talked to Erickson Collegiate and they are interested. The person to speak to is Marleese Soltys at the high school. Dana to contact her about getting this set up for our next meeting Tuesday April 20, 2010 at 7 pm.
 - Vest Use by supervisors on the playground – there are still many concerns about this not being done. There is frustration among parents that the vest-wearing hasn't been implemented 100% in the 5 months since this idea was proposed. Kathleen to remind staff about wearing them. Sometimes there are school employees out on the playground that are not supervising, but are there for other reasons. These staff members currently don't wear vests. Parents may see them and incorrectly conclude that they are not participating in vest wearing.

New Business

- The role of the Parent Group was discussed. Andrea clarified that our role does involve bringing issues to our meetings that have been brought to us by parents. Some parents will never be comfortable contacting the school. By going through the Parent Group, they can still have their issues addressed.
- Jennifer applied for a grant called the “Healthy Eating Campaign”. The grant is for \$100 plus \$0.35 per student, so approximately \$150. This grant would go towards the Cookbook. Jennifer will let us know if and when we receive the grant.
- Invitation – the Parent Group was invited to attend an Educational Finance Presentation put on by the Rolling River School Division. It will be held April 21 at 5 pm in the Home Ec Room of Tanner's Crossing School in Minnedosa. Barb may go; Shanna will try to go.
- Farm Credit Grant “Agrispirit” – Barb has looked in to applying for this grant. Applications will be received after May 3, 2010. Grants can be issued for between \$5,000 and \$25,000.
- Kathleen to get a letter from Lenny stating that our current schoolyard play structure must be removed. This letter may be useful in grant applications.
- New Grading System – all school divisions across the province are planning to slowly implement a new grading system. This system is outcome-based rather than grade-based. Kathleen will request more information about this system that families can access, and will pass that on to us after spring break.
- School entrances – Students are now being asked not to use the front door of the school when they arrive at school. Instead they are to walk around to the backdoors of the school where they can drop off their bags and play in the schoolyard. Some parents at the meeting expressed their dislike of this rule, stating that the kids should be allowed to use the front door. Kathleen will send out a letter to parents explaining why this is occurring.
- A parent asked if there was any current interest in keeping the grade 7's at EES. There have not been any recent discussions regarding this between the school division and EES. Kathleen said that EES doesn't have the room for an extra grade. A few years ago, a proposal was made for a K - 4, 5 - 8, and 9 - 12 school system for our area. There has been nothing new on this.
- Punch cards for cafeteria – at Tanner's Crossing school in Minnedosa they have pre-paid punch cards for the kids to use to pay for their lunches. Families purchase a certain amount on this punch card and the kids use it for their lunches until the funds run out. Punch cards

are kept at the canteen. This alleviates the need for families to provide money on a daily basis. EES is looking into doing this.

Dana Hanson

- Dana Hanson, the Guidance Counsellor for EES, presented on what her role is within the school. She is a social worker by training. Dana's position is $\frac{3}{4}$ time. $\frac{1}{2}$ of her time is spent in EES as the Guidance Counsellor, and $\frac{1}{4}$ of her time is spent working at the division office. She has a lot of information up on her website. In the www.rrsd.mb.ca website, click on "Schools", "EES", "Classrooms", and "Guidance Counsellor". Or go to: <http://fc.rrsd.mb.ca/~dhanson/?OpenItemURL=S00103311>
- Dana's role is to support the social and emotional well-being of all the students in the school.
- Each school in the RRSd has a Guidance Counsellor, except for Onanole Elementary.
- Dana spoke about the programs underway at the school including Community Groups, conflict resolution steps, and Peace Ambassadors on the playground.
- Referrals for kids to see Dana can come from the kids themselves; teachers, administrators or staff; parents/guardians; counselor observation; or outside agency referral. Dana's discussions with the kids are confidential. If kids or families have an issue that they need Dana's assistance with, please contact Dana at the school.
- A Preschool Wellness program entitled "123 Let's Get Ready" will be held on May 26th, 2010. The focus group is kids aged 3 to 5. There will be fun, hands-on activities for kids. Developmental screening may also take place at this event.

To Do List:

- **Kathleen** to provide Playground Phase description and estimated cost to the Parent Group.
- Completed fundraising letter to be sent out to Lions Club and other service groups. **Shanna**
- Surveys for swimming lessons to be given to teachers to hand out to students who have not returned them yet. **Kathleen**
- **Jennifer** to send letter home warning of recipe deadline of March 26th – no more baking recipes please.
- Typing of recipes for cookbook needs to be done.
- Permission slips to be sent home for photo use in the cookbook.
- Contact Lifetouch about using class photos in cookbook.
- Farm Credit Grant application.
- Letter stating the current playground equipment is unsafe. **Kathleen**
- Look in to opening a bank account; assign a treasurer; signing authority.
- Childcare at next meeting – **Dana** to organize.
- **Kathleen** to remind staff about wearing vests on playground.
- Educational Finance Presentation by RRSd April 21st 5 pm.
- **Kathleen** to send letter to parents about the use of the front door entrance
- **Kathleen** to find more information for parents regarding the new grading system proposed for Manitoba schools.

Next Meeting: Tuesday April 20th, 2010 at 7 pm at the Erickson Elementary School library