**Arborg Early Middle Years School**

**Parent Advisory Council Meeting**

**January 12, 2015**

**6:30p.m. at AEMYS**

**Present: Mr. Harding, Mr. Bailey, Gladys Kohler, Marlene Kroeker-Bodnarus, Tanya Stogrin, Joe Stogrin, Stephanie Sigurdson, Tara Buehlmann, Stacey Johnson, Mrs. Sparkes, Gary Thompson (Manager of Operations for Evergreen School Division)**

1. Marlene called the meeting to order at 6:33pm
2. Tara adopted the minutes and Mrs. Sparkes seconded.
3. **Old Business** 
   1. Report from ESD:
      1. Early Years Playground – Gary Thompson has met with Arborg Play Group and they had a good discussion. Mr. Harding and Gary have gotten quotes for equipment and installation from Blue Imp and Playgrounds-R-Us. Gary’s opinion is that Playgrounds-R-Us will be cheaper and give us better service. Gary will be having another meeting with Play Group next week to discuss what ESD and Play Group can afford. Additional quotes need to be obtained to ensure that we are comparing the same amount of pieces of equipment. Evergreen School Division and Arborg Play Group will cost share the purchase and installation of the swings and 2 other pieces of equipment once the ground has thawed in the spring and a proper installation can be done. Evergreen School Division has a School Ground Capital Projects procedure where ESD will make a contribution of up to 20% of the project cost up to a maximum of $30,000 per project. Gary acknowledges that the situation isn’t a good one and said there is will to fix it. This is a community project. The new equipment will have to go behind the current equipment and the berm may need to be reshaped in order to accommodate the new equipment. In order to decide the exact location of the new equipment the cribbing measurements need to determined. This will be done by Gary and Mr. Harding. Gary expects to be looking at different quotes with less dollar value. Please attend the public budget meeting on February 25th @ 7pm at Arborg Collegiate to show the board that people want money put into the playground equipment.
      2. Teeter Totters – There are wires sticking out of the tires that the teeter totter rest on. In the spring the teeter totters will have to be looked at to see if they are usable.
      3. Gym Storage – Gary Thompson had a discussion at an ESD management meeting about the gym storage. Chances are that the storage will be detached from the school and unheated. The school had requested from ESD $100,000 to $150,000 to have more storage space included with the Wellness Centre. ESD denied the request with Gladys and Kris opposing the vote. Public Schools Finance Board also denied the request. ESD needs to know what size of a building is needed with consideration of anticipating the future needs. The gymnastics program had about 300 sq feet of storage previously. Four quotes need to be done for 300 and 500 sq feet each with the detached and attached option and then a request needs to be submitted to ESD. The hope is that the gymnastics program can start up in September 2015 so the storage issue needs to be figured out as it would be a shame to lose a program because of lack of storage for equipment.
   2. Outdoor classroom/natural Habitat – Update from Tara – Rick suggested that we contact Play Group to see if it would be possible to put the lighting on the new daycare as that would be the most cost effective. The natural habitat committee will be meeting on Wed, Jan 14th. Prior to that meeting Mrs. Marteinsson is going to discuss at the staff meeting on Jan 13th the possibility of moving / separating the natural habitat and outdoor classroom with the possibility of moving the outdoor classroom to the front of the school. There would be less damage if the outdoor classroom was more visible at the front of the school. The outdoor classroom committee should apply for grants for trees, etc as the deadline is coming up.
   3. Santa’s visit – December 18th – A big thank you to Carissa, Tara and Marlene for being Santa’s elves. Santa did a great job. PAC provided oranges and candy canes. There were only 10 extra candy canes and all of the oranges were all gone after the staff meeting. It was nice to have it on the Thursday instead of on Friday which is only a half day.
   4. Hot Dog Day / Hot Lunch / Muffins – A huge thank you to Joe and Sally Stogrin for the perogy and kolbasa hot lunch last month. Also a big thank you to Marianne Stefanson for making the gluten free perogies. We need to get the orders out earlier and stick to the deadline. Thank you to Tiffany for making muffins. We have 2 dozen left. If we need more just let her know when more are needed.
   5. PAC Fundraiser – Christmas Baskets / Ticket Sales – Thank you to Tiffany for making our beautiful baskets. We had $979.00 income and only $55.00 expenses for a profit of $924.00 towards the outdoor classroom / natural habitat. Marlene and students sold tickets at both concerts which was definitely well worth it..
   6. Thank You Letters for Welcome Back BBQ – Tanya has done up the Thank you letters and all have been given to our sponsors. A huge Thank you again to Coop, Vidir Machine, Foster Tire, Ganica, Jacobson Farms, Johnson Seeds, Little Joe’s Auctions, Orbanski Family & Powerbend for your donations towards our Welcome Back BBQ.
   7. Report on ESD Planning Day – December 2nd – Tara attended the planning day and said that it was a very nice day. It was nice to see the board members that have a real passion. There were very good presentations done by all of the schools about what is going on at their school.
4. **New Business** 
   1. Babysitters – Thank you to this month’s babysitters – Alyssa Gard & Amanda Stogrin. PAC is having difficulty getting 2 babysitters for each of our monthly meetings. Anyone that has taken the babysitter’s course is able to babysit. PAC gives a $10 donation to the Philanthropy Club each time a student babysits as well as the student receives a thank you letter from PAC to be put in their portfolio. Mrs. Sparkes will discuss with the students the importance of babysitters for PAC at the next Philanthrophy Club meeting.
5. **Other Business**
   1. Discovery Time - The next session of Discovery Time will begin on Wed, January 21st for grades 3 to 8 from 2:40pm to 3:30pm. The K-2 students will begin on Thursday, January 22nd from 2:40pm to 3:30pm. This session is for 6 weeks. There will also be a 4 week session in April. Discovery time has over 90 students participating. Sign up can be done at any time.
6. **Principal’s Report**
   1. 2015-2016 School Division Budget – Anticipate the Board will try to maintain the programs and services we currently have in place. There will be staffing reductions due to lower enrollment in the division.
   2. Enrollment – We are anticipating a decrease in enrollment for the upcoming school year. This will mean a reduction of approximately 2 classrooms. JK enrollment is 20 this year and has been below 30 for the past 3 years. This is an indicator that our school will continue to become smaller as larger classes go to grade 9 and smaller classes move through our school.
   3. Facilities
      1. Wellness Center – Currently working on he interior of the new room. Anticipate completion by the end of January and occupancy by mid February.
      2. A new water fountain with chiller and bottle filler has been purchased and will be installed in the north wing.
   4. Noventis Credit Union donated $1,200 to help support our breakfast program. This money helps us subsidize milk for all students as well as keep food on hand when students are in need.
   5. Sent in a grant proposal to Manitoba Education for $2,000 to support our natural habitat project.

Evergreen School Division is looking at ways to increase enrollment. We need to let the families that are home schooling know that there is Discovery time at the school.

1. Correspondence
   1. Chairperson Breakfast – Marlene is not able to attend. Is anyone else available to go on Sat, Feb 7th?
   2. Becoming a MAPC Board of Director
   3. Manitoba School Superintendent Journal.
2. Next Meeting – Monday, February 9th at 6:30 pm in the staff room at AEMYS. We are looking for parents that are willing to donate their time and become members on the Parent Advisory Council. This gives you as parents the opportunity to have a better understanding of what goes on at the school. All are welcome to come and discuss any concerns they have or offer their input.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.