

**Arborg Early Middle Years School  
Parent Advisory Council Meeting  
January 18, 2016  
7 p.m. at AEMYS**

**Present: Marlene Kroeker-Bodnarus, Don Bodnarus, Brad Harding, Tanya Stogrin, Joe Stogrin, Tara Buehlmann, Tiffany Olsen, Mrs. Kicenko, Stephanie Sigurdson**

1. Marlene called the meeting to order at 7:06pm
2. Adopt Previous Meeting Minutes – Tiffany motioned and Tara seconded.
3. **Old Business**
  - a. Outdoor classroom/Natural Habitat – Update from Tara / Ruth Ann –We have received the money from Home Hardware for the flower boxes for the natural habitat. Home Hardware asked that a plaque be put up on the flower boxes recognizing the donation. The cost would be \$45 for a metal plaque from TDM. Tara will order the plaque.
  - b. Early Years Playground grant letters/presentation to the Town of Arborg and RM of Bifrost/Riverton - Ruth Ann was unable to attend this meeting but forwarded the attached email as her update to PAC. In order for us to get the Hometown Manitoba grant we first need to have a grant from the Town of Arborg and/or the RM of Bifrost/Riverton. If we are successful with Hometown Manitoba they would then match the amount we have from the town and /or the RM. No playground equipment has been ordered. Playgrounds r Us will keep Brad posted if there is going to be an increase in the cost of the playground equipment due to the currency difference between the US and Canadian dollar. If prices are changing then Brad will order the equipment. Brad has asked ESD for a bridging loan in case some of the grants do not come through. We are still planning ribbon cutting ceremonies to showcase what PAC has done with attention in the local newspapers.
  - c. Muffins/Hot Dog Day/Hot Lunch – the next hot dog day is Fri, Jan 22<sup>nd</sup> and will be run by Sherri and Tara. If there are extra chips, cookies, etc to sell let Norma know and she will announce it to the students. We could try popcorn instead of chips sometime in the future. An idea for hot lunch is to do pizza. Stephanie will talk to the bakery and find out the cost of the pizzas, the number of pieces per pizza and the size of the pizza's and let us know at the next meeting. We should offer cheese pizza, pepperoni and ham/pineapple. Right now we have enough muffins.
  - d. Santa's Visit – The visit went very well. Santa talked to each student.
  - e. PAC Christmas Raffle – We made \$1000 on the Christmas Raffle.
  - f. Workshops hosted by PAC – John Moore is hosting weekend session in Arborg at ACI for teens. He is the inter departmental person. Marlene will talk to Carissa for an update and Brad can pass along contact info for PAC should we be interested in having him come out to do a workshop for AEMYS
  - g. School Planning ESD – Nov 30 PAC representative – Don Bodnarus attended the School Planning on behalf of AEMYS PAC. The evening was focused on answering the following questions:
    - i. What can students do to make themselves contributing members of society?
    - ii. What can the school do to help students become contributing members of society?

ESD wanted ideas from the people attending to help students become contributing members of society.

Some ideas were having students help with recycling and having the students help with coaching and/or refereeing after school.

Other items that were discussed are that parents are saying that students are not using electronics in a responsible way. Electronics are not bad just they need to be used properly. Also the amount of homework that students have needs to allow for students to do other things in the evening as well.

#### **4. New Business**

- a. Newsletter – Parents are missing the paper copies of the newsletters to be able to get the PAC minutes. We need a link to the PAC minutes on the AEMYS website. When the minutes are posted on the website it would be good to send out a call or email to parents to let them know that the minutes have been posted. Instead of the paper newsletters the school can communicate with parents via Facebook, Twitter, the school website, automated phone calls and class notes.
- b. Staff Appreciation Lunch – Joe and Sally Stogrin will take care of the staff appreciation lunch this year. They may serve lasagna. Joe and Sally will determine the date.
- c. Outside Recess – As per ESD policy students do not go outside for recess once it reaches -27 degrees Celcius with the windshield. The school closes at -45 degrees Celcius with the windshield and -40 degrees Celcius with no windshield.

#### **5. Other Business**

- a. Discovery Time – Registration can be done at anytime for Discovery Time. We need to ensure that the kids are back in their classrooms to ensure that kids are dressed properly to go home and get all of their belongings. Discovery Time needs to be finished by 3:15 for the younger grades.
- b. Promoting the schools in Arborg – Mr. Harding will talk to Mr. Semenek, the principal at ACI that we need to promote ACI with all of the option programs available there. There should be information at the Town and RM offices.
- c. 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – Next year Canada will be 150. Mrs. Marteinsson and Tara were talking about a Thanksgiving dinner for all students in the gym. The teachers can't do it themselves. Can PAC or would PAC be interested in helping? PAC is interested but what help do the teachers need?

#### **6. Principal's Report**

- a. 2016-2017 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.
- b. Enrollment – We are anticipating a decrease in enrollment for the upcoming school year. We have 37 students moving to grade 9 and only 22 students entering Kindergarten. JK enrollment is 22 this year and has been below 30 for the past 4 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.
- c. Facilities
  - i. A new water fountain with chiller and bottle filler has been installed in the EYs. We are waiting for electrical to be installed.
  - ii. See revised quote for playground based on some suggestions. Not 100% sure about the drop shot because it would be installed in grass area.
- d. Sent letter to the Board on behalf of the school and PAC requesting the 20% support for school grounds capital projects.
- e. Sent in a grant application to Manitoba Education for \$2000 to support our habitat project. Applied last year without success, but thought I would try again.

#### **7. Correspondence – Children and Youth Opportunities**

8. **Next Meeting** – Monday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 pm in the staff room at AEMYS. We are looking for parents that are willing to donate their time and become members of 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 8:39 pm.

From: **Ruth Ann Furgala** RuthAnn.Furgala@esd.ca  
Subject: Update for AEMS PAC meeting Monday night  
Date: January 14, 2016 at 6:38 PM  
To: **Marlene Kroeker-Bodnarus** ikroeker@mts.net  
Cc: **Brad Harding** Brad.Harding@esd.ca



Hello Marlene - please accept this update for the Board's information on Monday night. As I advised last meeting, I have a conflict with an ESD Budget meeting and am unable to attend.

Before I start my report I would like to extend a most sincere "thank you" to Brad for his immeasurable help - always with extremely short notice - and yourself for continued support through the last month. Our applications were truly a joint submission! And the letters of support Brad got were amazing!

A special thank you to our four student representatives at the Town of Arborg Council meeting - Ashton Paulson, McKenzie Adair, Shelby Prus-Olson and Jerah Andool. If we are successful in our request it is due to the influence of these young people. I could not imagine having to do that when I was in middle years. They were terrific. Thank you also to Carissa Rempel and Joe Stogran for providing additional support and, of course, to Brad for coordinating the presentations! (Is there any chance of getting a picture of these fantastic kids and profiling their presentation on the AEMS website or with posters?). Might provide additional political leverage.

The grant applications we have submitted as of today are as follows:

Mb. Community Places.	\$15,000.00
Mb. Community Futures.	\$ 5,000.00
Noventis Credit Union:	\$ 5,000.00
Hometown Manitoba:	\$ 5,000.00 (matched with Arborg)
Town of Arborg:	\$ 5,000.00 (matched above)
MCSC	\$ 6,595.77
Total:	\$41,595.77

We were excited to hear at our last meeting Arborg Home Hardware is donating the full cost of our flower box material back to us - another recognized donation of \$428.47!

Brad has also forwarded a letter on behalf of our PAC requesting both funding in the amount of \$12,284.00 (20% of eligible costs) - which the PAC qualify for under ESD policy and a request to put in place any required "in-term" funding.

I am very hopeful the 5 identified pieces of new playground equipment, 2 outdoor games picnic tables, planter boxes, and supports for our outdoor classroom and natural habitat will be fully funded without depleting the AEMS PAC's financial reserve. Keep your fingers crossed! The criteria to qualify for funding from Community Places means we cannot order prior to their announcement - anticipated this year in late May. However that is good timing to allow for the installation of the equipment during the summer holidays - the safest time for our students and least interruptions!

I can still submit a request for funding to the Municipality of Bifrost-Riverton. The Arborg Council asked if we had submitted a request to them. Perhaps if the Hometown Manitoba grant application is shared between the two we might be more successful? I'll take your suggestions.

Thanks again for having such a great PAC! Brad - you are extremely supportive of your PAC and I think that is what makes it so successful. It's a pleasure to work with all of you...I wish you a great meeting !

Ruth Ann Furgala  
Chairperson, Board of Trustees  
Evergreen School Division  
Sent from my iPad