**Arborg Early Middle Years School**

**Parent Advisory Council Meeting**

**November 24, 2014**

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

**Present: Mr. Harding, Mr. Bailey, Gladys Kohler, Marlene Kroeker-Bodnarus, Tanya Stogrin, Mrs. Chwailaboga, Stephanie, Tara Buehlmann, Carissa Rempel, Stacey Johnson, Sheila Stoyanowski, Kendra Jacobson, Gary Thompson (Manager of Operations for Evergreen School Division)**

1. Marlene called the meeting to order.
2. Tara adopted the minutes and Carissa seconded. Tanya is to correct the spelling of Beyetter to Beyette.
3. Timed Item @ 6:35pm – Gymnastics Program in Arborg – Stacey Johnson – There is no longer a gymnastics program in Arborg because there is no place to store the gymnastics equipment. Currently the equipment is in storage elsewhere and not being used. There was on average about 50 students in gymnastics. Now there are about 12 families that are driving to Gimli and have joined the Gimli gymnastics program. For many families driving to Gimli is not an option so those children are no longer participating. The Gymnastics program was run through the Rec Commission so there was no charge for the space. Mr. Harding wrote a letter to ESD requesting that the plans for the gym remodel be altered to include space for storing the gymnastics equipment. Gladys indicated that Mr. Harding and the gymnastics group should come in person to discuss the request with ESD. Shortly ESD will begin the budget process so now is the time to make the request for storage for the gymnastics equipment. Generally a pre-budget meeting is the week of Feb 12 to 16th and the budget would be passed about March 11th. Would it be possible to get a shed to store the equipment in that is not attached to the school? The equipment would be freezing cold and would need time to warm up. Would Friday be a possible day to have gymnastics as then the equipment could be brought in right after school and have a chance to warm up? Since gymnastics is a Rec Commission program would they be willing to cost share the cost of the storage facility? In Gimli they store their equipment outside in a 10’ x 20’ space. Gary Thompson the new Manager of Operations will report back at our January meeting. Our new wellness centre should be usable mid February. Currently the school is using the crash mats from the gymnastics program so if the equipment is moved elsewhere the cost to the school would be upwards of $7000. The gymnastics program supplements the school program as Mrs. Burak doesn’t teach gymnastics.
4. **Old Business** 
   1. Outdoor classroom/natural Habitat – Update from Tara – Tara has talked to Manitoba Hydro and we need to have a pole installed with a transformer before a dusk to dawn light can be installed. Would a motion sensor light be better as it may attract more attention as to why the light is on? We need to talk to an electrician about what is available to be used in the outdoor classroom. Tara will contact Mark Klym to discuss since he has a child at the school. Ed Harms has put the fill in the outdoor classroom. Due to the proximity of the outdoor classroom and the daycare he couldn’t use machines to move the fill but instead it took all of his crew to move the fill. We will have to cover that cost.
   2. Muffins / Hot Dog Day / Hot Lunch – We still have 4 dozen muffins. Hot Lunch will be Dec 12th with perogies and kolbasa by Joe and Sally Stogrin. Joe and Marlene will finalize the details. Marianne Stefansson will make gluten free perogies and Marlene will buy the gluten free sausage. The gluten free perogies will be cooked after the regular perogies. The last hot dog day worked out much better with the grade 7/8 and with help from teachers and EA’s. The next hot dog day will be Jan 23rd, 2015.
   3. Santa’s Visit Thursday Dec 18th at 2pm – Marlene has booked Santa. Tara, Carissa and Marlene will be elves. We will have candy canes and oranges. We will have a better idea of how many students will be at school since it isn’t the last day before break.
   4. PAC Christmas basket / ticket sales – A huge thank you to Tiffany for putting together the Xmas baskets with plastic wrap. The tickets will go home with students on December 1st. Gladys is donating a table cloth, Gerri Fridfinnson is donating homemade Xmas stocking and Tiffany is donating a microwave stack cooker from Tupperware that retails for $139. In past our profit has been from $700 to $1000 on the baskets. PAC has agreed that we can spend up to $150 on items for the baskets but we would prefer to stay closer to $100. The K-2 concert is on Tues, Dec 16th and the grade 3 & 4 concert is on Wed, Dec 17th. Marlene is willing to sit and sell tickets but would like help at the K-2 concert as it is the busier evening.
   5. AGM Executive Elections – Chiemi Beyette has decided not be part of PAC. All were in favour of Stephanie Sigurdson taking over the board member position.
5. **New Business** 
   1. Timed Item @ 7pm – Report from Gary Thompson, manager of Operations ESD – Swings and other playground equipment at AEMYS – Carissa wrote a letter to ESD about how concerned and frustrated the parents and PAC are that there are no swings for the early years students to play on at AEMYS. Gary Thompson has advised that the swings and the climber were damaged beyond repair when they were removed are no longer usable. The daycare hired the contractor to remove the swings. Did they not tell the contractor that the swings were to be reinstalled in a different location? Gary needs to find the agreement that was signed between ESD and the daycare when the daycare was granted the land to see what is outlined as far as who is responsible for the cost of moving and reinstalling the swings. PAC has always been told that this was the daycare’s cost but we need to find out what the agreement states. Regardless of the past we need to get equipment for our kids to play on ASAP. The early years playground has been significantly reduced since the daycare construction has begun. Why does PAC and the parents of AEMYS not have a voice with the school division over major changes being made at our school? Gary can’t speak to the past but he has committed to working together with PAC and the parents from now on. The steps that need to be taken are Gary will talk with the daycare, then we need a meeting between the daycare and PAC with Gary keeping us advised as to what is happening. ESD has a school ground capital project where ESD covers 20% of the cost up to $30,000 that may be usable to purchase new swings. There was mention that the school division may be able to assist with money or bridging loans for the playground equipment needed. It is not okay that there is no early years playground equipment. The staff of AEMYS needs to be consulted where the equipment should be installed. Removal of the berm may be an option to allow the early years kids to have a larger playground. There is no line of sight for supervisors if the berm is still in place. The next board meeting for ESD is Dec 3rd. Gary will have the swing added to the meeting’s agenda.
6. Other Business
   1. Arborg Band Boosters – The Arborg Band Boosters has asked if AEMYS PAC would donate towards the Christmas Concert. Marlene motioned that PAC support the Band Boosters with $50. Tanya seconded.
7. Principal’s Report
   1. School Division Planning – December 2 – Parent Representative?
   2. Facilities
      1. Gym addition – Progressing very well. Should be useable by February
      2. Gary Thompson is the new manager of Operations for the division. He is currently in the process of familiarizing himself with the current status of all projects within the division.
   3. Report Cards – Being sent home to families at the end of the day on November 28
   4. Fire and Life Safety – All schools have received a letter identifying regulations regarding use of gyms for concerts, play, etc. This may require changes to some of the events hosted within school to be compliant.
   5. Picture Day – has anyone had any feedback? We did not have many requests for retakes. There is another model they offer in which the students all get proofs and order from proofs. This model takes a couple of weeks longer to receive pictures.

Tara may possibly be able to attend the School Division Planning Day. She will let Mr. Harding know.

In order for us to hold large functions in the gym the new regulations state that the chairs need to be banded together. How do we go about doing this? The fire lane at the front of the school is a huge issue. Only buses and emergency vehicles are the only ones allowed to enter the fire lane. If something were to happen the school division would be hugely liable.

PAC discussed changing to the model where everyone orders from the proof picture taken and decided to go ahead. It does take a couple of weeks longer to get the pictures but they still will be here before Christmas.

1. Correspondence
   1. MAPC - Constitution – MAPC has done up a new constitution. Marlene will email a copy to everyone.
2. Next Meeting – Monday, January 12th 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 8:23 pm.