**Arborg Early Middle Years School**

**Parent Advisory Council Meeting**

**November 23, 2015**

**7 p.m. at AEMYS**

**Present: Marlene Kroeker-Bodnarus, Brad Harding, Tanya Stogrin, Joe Stogrin, Ruth Ann Furgala, Carissa Rempel, Kendra Jacobson, Alicia Skoropet, Tara Buehlmann**

1. Marlene called the meeting to order at 7:04pm
2. Adopt Previous Meeting Minutes - Tara adopted the minutes.
3. **Old Business** 
   1. Outdoor classroom/Natural Habitat – Update from Tara / Ruth Ann –Last meeting we discussed having the CTS students from ACI help with the work on the natural habitat. If this were to be possible the business the CTS student(s) are working with needs to be a construction company. We need to get things lined up for spring and when we can do things depends on the weather. Roger advised that the fill will still be available in the spring. Jacobson Farms has a truck that can haul the fill. Mr. Harding will ask a friend for use of the skidsteer for a couple of hours to move the fill in the natural habitat. We need to start organizing this in March. Tara asked Home Hardware if they would donate the materials for the flower boxes. Home Hardware agreed that PAC can purchase the materials needed and then Home Hardware will donate the same amount back to PAC with a tax receipt through the Evergreen Foundation. PAC needs to promote our accomplishments with Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies. We should do one for the Early Years playground and make sure the papers are aware. We should do another one for the outdoor classroom separately when the greenhouses are open. We could work it with donate a shrub program. We should also do a ribbon cutting for the Natural Habitat once it is ready to use.
   2. Early Years Playground letters to the Town of Arborg and RM of Bifrost-Riverton – The account balances of the PAC accounts and the AEMYS’ playground account are:

PAC Hot Dog Account - $1,355.38

PAC Raffle Account - $8,727.17

AEMYS Playground Account - $7,441.44

There is still $8,641.47 owing for the Early Years playground equipment. PAC owes $4,000 of the $8,641.47 for the EY playground equipment. PAC has also committed $1890 to purchasing benches for the outdoor classroom (7 benches at $270 each). Tiffany is working on drafting the letters to the Town of Arborg and the RM of Bifrost-Riverton but needs help with the wording. Judy Nichol wrote the letters last time for the play structure. Tanya will see if she can find the old letters. Ruth Ann suggested that we should not send letters out for the Early Years playground since we know that we have the money for it. Instead we should focus on phase 2 of the playground with the replacement of the swings, etc on the Middle Years playground. We will work on drafting letters to the following organizations before purchasing equipment for the Middle Years side as you are not able to get grants if we pay for anything before applying for and finding out if we were successful with grants. Letters will be sent to the following organizations and presentations will be made where possible:

Town of Arborg

RM of Bifrost-Riverton

Noventis – Deadline December 31st

Community Places – Deadline December 15th

Farm Credit Canada

MAFRI (Hometown Manitoba)

Arborg Legion

Riverton Elks

Canada Post

There is approval in principal to spend $40,000 on phase 2 of the playground for the Middle Years.

* 1. Hot Dog Day / Muffins / Hot Lunch – Perogy and Kolbasa Hot Lunch will be on Tuesday, Dec 1st. Tiffany will cook the gluten free perogies and sausage. Carissa will help Joe and Sally with the hot lunch. The next Hot Dog Day will be Fri, Dec 11th. Sherri, Tara and Kendra will run hot dog day.
  2. Santa’s Visit – Santa will visit the school on Thurs, Dec 17th. Tara and Carissa will help as elves. Marlene will get candy canes and oranges for Santa’s visit.
  3. PAC Fundraiser / Christmas basket – Tiffany has a Tupperware basked worth $150 that she will sell to PAC for $50. We also have a donation of a $100 John Deere tractor and wagon. Tara will donate a box of cars. Marlene talked to Norma about printing the tickets. Marlene will ask Norma to send out a phone call for donations. We will have 3 or 4 baskets depending on the donations we receive.
  4. School Website – The businesses that sponsor events or make donations need to be on the school website. The donations from Vidir Machine and the After School program were on the scrolling bar but after a month the scrolling bar changes.
  5. What PAC Does – Info Letter – Great Job Carissa! Thank you! Looks Great! Marlene will put a copy on the PAC bulletin board.
  6. Workshops hosted by PAC – Carissa has inquired with a team from Winnipeg School Division regarding a general workshop about mental health and is waiting for an answer to see if they could provide information and practical tips for parents that parents can take home with them. PAC would have to pay the presenters as well as their travel costs. Another idea for a work shop is Restitution. Joan from the Evergreen School Division could present this workshop for us and there would be no cost to PAC. Restitution is taking ownership of what someone did and how can we fix it. We would be able to learn about family social contracts.
  7. School Planning Invitation from ESD – Nov 30 PAC representative – If anyone is interested in going they should take along Carissa’s info letter about PAC to show what we have accomplished.

1. **New Business**
   1. Halloween at AEMYS – It was mentioned that there were some costumes with weapons, some that were gory and gross. The school should not be promoting violence and should have a policy on no weapons, no gore and no blood. The school should not be a place where this is promoted especially with the things happening in the world today. Many of the costumes with weapons were in the very young grades. Mr. Harding doesn’t want to police what kids can and can’t wear. Next year a letter should be sent home before Halloween reminding parents that costumes with weapons, gore and blood are not needed at school. Mr. Harding will look into what policies other schools have and decide if we should have a policy. The grade 7 / 8 costumes were great with no weapons, etc. Recently a grade 1 / 2 student threatened another student that he was getting a sniper gun and was going to come and shoot the other kid. The student who was threatened wants to be pulled out of school before Christmas. The parent of the student that was threatened does not believe the other student would actually harm her son. We need ensure that violence is not promoted in the school even on Halloween. PAC would like to see a weapon free Halloween next year.
2. **Other Business** 
   1. EDSBY – The Middle Years teachers are supposed to be using EDSBY to advise parents what homework students have unless the teacher has chosen to use agendas instead. Some 7 / 8 teachers are not using either and parents have no idea what students have for homework. Mr. Harding will remind teachers that EDSBY needs to be used. Parents seem to prefer the agenda rather than the EDSBY system.
3. **Principal’s Report**
   1. Facilities:
      * + - Water chilling fountain to be installed in EYs hallway.
          - Middle Years swings in poor condition. The Middle Years playground area is in need of some upgrading. Swings and a couple of movement pieces. Attached is an example. If we decide to take this on we would need to at least order the equipment before Christmas if possible as prices will be going up in the New Year based on the Canadian dollar.
          - Outdoor classroom is complete. The project came in under budget. Budget of $8,475.00 and final cost was $7,294.15. I also provided some grant funds toward the project ($2,830). The balance of $4,464.15 has been paid from the PAC account. PAC or the school can use any remaining material.
          - The division has not yet billed is for the remainder of the playground. The school paid the $13, 61952 deposit from our playground fund. After the $2,500 donation from Vidir Machine, $1,000 from Arborg School Age CO-OP and $26,000 from Evergreen School Division we will owe $8,641.47.
   2. Report Card – Being sent home to families at the end of the day on November 27.
   3. Fundraiser – Went very well and we will profit approximately $4,000. The proceeds of the yearly fundraiser help support various school clubs, supplement field trips, purchase playground/Phys.Ed equipment, and pay for special presentations such as artist in the school and plays. Thank you to everyone that supported the fundraiser.
   4. Picture Day – Has anyone had any feedback? We did not have many requests for retakes. Retake day is not until December 3 because the roads were poor and they had to cancel November 19. We did the proof program this year and it seemed to be well received.
   5. Received another $1,000 donation from the Arborg School Age CO-OP. This money will go into the account for future playground equipment.

Thank you very much to the Arborg School Age CO-OP for their donation of another$1,000 towards playground equipment.

1. **Correspondence –** Nothing
2. **Next Meeting** – Monday, January 18th 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 8:40 pm.