**Arborg Early Middle Years School**

**Parent Advisory Council Meeting**

**October 26, 2015**

**7 p.m. at AEMYS**

**Present: Marlene Kroeker-Bodnarus, Tanya Stogrin, Joe Stogrin, Tiffany Olsen, Ruth Ann Furgala, Carissa Rempel, Danelle Plett, Kendra Jacobson, Mrs. Chwaliboga, Tara Buehlmann**

1. Marlene called the meeting to order at 7:05pm
2. Tanya will revise the Sept 28th, 2015 minutes to state that “It is a very important age to have one consistent teacher in the classroom.” Tara adopted the minutes and Tiffany seconded.
3. **Old Business** 
   1. Outdoor classroom/Natural Habitat – Update from Tara –
      1. Outdoor Classroom - 7 benches will be made by Jason from Plankeye Woodwork and should be done by May 2016 for the outdoor classroom. We will ask Home Hardware for a donation of lumber towards the flower boxes. We need to know exactly how many pieces of wood and what size we need before asking.
      2. Natural Habitat - We got a quote last year of $5,600 plus taxes for more fill, topsoil and to have a skid steer come level it out. Roger Burak at the Ag Research Center has fill that they will donate. PAC just needs to find a truck to bring the fill to AEMS. Jacobson Farms may have a truck to move the fill. If not we will contact Raymond Weik or Russel Deneka to see if they can move the fill for us. We need to get the fill in before winter so that it can settle. There is fencing that is missing and needs to be replaced. Raymond Weik is the only one around that does topsoil. Any work that is done needs to be coordinated with Evergreen School Division. Mr. Harding needs to relay information to Gary from ESD as to what is happening. Ruth Ann mentioned that we should look into having Career and Technology Studies students (CTS students) from Arborg Collegiate do the work. All that PAC would have to pay for would be the hourly rate for the equipment. The CTS students would get credit for the work. Mr. Harding needs to contact Mr. Semenek to discuss having the CTS students assist with our project. Ruth Ann would like to schedule a meeting between herself, Mr. Harding and Tara about CTS. Ruth Ann is willing to help navigate throught the process. If plan A of having the CTS students help doesn’t pan out then we will go to plan B of paying someone to do the work. Is there still a need for lighting at the natural habitat since the outdoor classroom is at the front of the school? The area is a dark and dingy corner so it needs lighting to prevent vandalism. Since this is school property shouldn’t Mr. Harding and Ken look after taking care of lighting? Ruth Ann mentioned that grants are available through the Chamber of Commerce for lighting. The reason PAC initially started working on the natural habitat was because it was unsafe for the students. There was broken glass, gun shells, etc. found in the area and the fence was broken and ripped before the daycare started building. The students are still not allowed in the area. The fencing should not be fixed until the fill and topsoil are in the natural habitat. Would we want to do a Donate a Shrub program and work with Friendly Flowers?
   2. Early Years Playground letters to the Town of Arborg and RM of Bifrost – Tiffany will write the letters. We need to ensure that there are lots of details in the letters. The playground is a joint shared facility as it is a community playground. The playground cost $53,000 in total. Evergreen School Division put in $26,500 to replace the swings, etc. AEMS put in $19,000. PAC is putting in $7,500. The generous donations of $2,500 from Vidir Machine and $1,000 from the After School Program are decreasing the amount that PAC owes. The remaining $4000 was financed by Evergreen School Division with a bridging loan that needs to be paid back. PAC will also send a letter to the Chamber of Commerce with a request for funding towards the new playground.
   3. Hot Dog Day / Muffins / Hot Lunch – The kids loved the chips at hot dog day. The next hot dog day will be Friday, November 13th. Sherri Orbanski, Tara and Kendra will take care of November’s hot dog day. Kindgergarten kids are at school on Tuesday’s, Thursday’s and every second Friday. Hot lunch day of perogies and kolbasa will be Tuesday, December 1st. Sally and Joe Stogrin will take care of hot lunch day. We will offer gluten free perogies and Tiffany will cook the gluten free perogies at her house.
   4. Thank You Letters – Welcome Back BBQ – September 2015 – Marlene will look after getting Thank you letters sent out. Marlene updated the details on the Welcome Back BBQ to include that the Bardason family donated the chip and corrected the amount of Jacobson Farm’s donation.
4. **New Business**
   1. Santa’s Visit – Santa will visit on Thursday, December 17th. The Kindergarten as well as the Junior Kindergarten students will be at school. PAC will purchase the oranges and candy canes.
   2. PAC Fundraiser / Christmas Basket / Ticket Sales – Marlene will talk to Norma about the tickets for the baskets. Tiffany will take care of doing up the baskets. The only donations we need are for the Christmas basket.
   3. AGM Executive Elections

Nomination List:

Chair – Marlene Kroeker Bodnarus

Vice Chair – Joe Stogrin

Secretary/Treasurer – Tanya Stogrin

Board Member #1 – Tara Buehlmann

Board Member #2 – Kendra Jacobson

Board Member #3 – Stephanie Sigurdson

Board Member #4 – Tiffany Olson

Board Member #5 – Carissa Rempel

Board Member #6 – Vacant

Motion: To accept the nomination list as presented.

Motion by Ruth Ann.

Seconded by Carissa.

Carissa has 3 or 4 parents that may be interested in the Board Member #6 position.

1. **Other Business** 
   1. Newsletter – It would be nice if there was a School Connects call done when a new newsletter is posted on the website so parents are aware.
   2. What PAC does – Carrissa will write up a letter with what PAC is, what we have achieved and what projects we are working on. This will be send home to parents so they are aware.There is a new personal care home being built and will have 300 new jobs. We want to ensure people are aware of our school. We need to promote our school. We should have the RM of Bifrost/Riverton and the Town of Arborg put a link on their website to the AEMYS and ESD websites.
   3. Discovery Time – There are 70 students registered. Discover time will start on October 27th.
   4. Workshops – Should PAC host another workshop as we have done in the past? Some ideas would be:
      * + - Mental Health First Aid – provided by IRHA
          - A workshop for children / teens / parents about what the issues are and how to handle them.

Carissa will follow up on the cost and if it is possible to host the Mental Health First Aid.

1. **Principal’s Report**
   1. Facilities:
      * + - New sand has been put into the volleyball court and sandbox. Student council will be helping to cover the cost.
          - Bill is away on vacation. Ken believes that there is still more work that has to be finished.
          - Pea gravel and the swings in the middle years area are in poor shape and will need to be addressed before too long.
   2. School Division Planning will be done in a different format this year. PAC should have received an invitation.
   3. Breakfast program
      1. CO-OP is once again donating fruit.
      2. The school also continues to have a small supply of various food items in case a student has forgotten their lunch or requires a little extra.
   4. School fundraiser was successful, but not sure of exact amount. Thank you to everyone that supported it. For the last few years we have tried to have just one major fundraiser per year.

Bill is building our outdoor classroom.

The School Planning is a wonderful meeting. It will be on November 30th at the TEC Centre from 7 to 9pm.

1. **Correspondence** 
   1. Approval of Request for Religious Instruction from ESD
   2. School Planning Invitiation from ESD
2. Next Meeting – Monday, November 23rd 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 8:50 pm.