

**MINUTES: SD8 Local Chapter of EEPSA**  
**(Environmental Education Provincial Specialist**  
**Ass'n)**

**Feb.28, 2017 - 3:30 to 4:45 pm**  
**Hosted by Graeme at LV Rogers in the ATLAS**  
**Portable**

**Present: Nashira Birch, Daniela Fiess, Megan  
Jamison, Graeme Marshall, Monica Nissen, Linda  
Out, Doug Shaw**

- Attendance
- Linda read the Minutes from the previous meeting
- The meeting continued with a discussion of the upcoming EE Leadership Clinic, April 29th to May 2 at Nipika Lodge, hosted by CBEEN (Columbia Basin Environmental Education Network). Monica explained more about this clinic for teachers from each school district in the Columbia Basin and Boundary region. For more information, please see: <http://cbeen.ca/leadership-clinic/>
- The deadline for teachers in SD8 to apply is today (Feb. 28th)
- Something that was discussed is that SD8 is (one of?) the only district(s) that is not covering the teachers' TTOC costs for one of the two week-days of the leadership clinic.

- CBEEN is able to cover the expense of one day of TTOC costs for teachers who are participating in the Leadership Clinic.
- Next, we discussed forming an Executive for this Local Chapter of EEPSA.
- Linda Out and Nashira Birch offered to share the role of President / Chair of the Meetings.
- Megan Jamison offered to be the Secretary.
- Graeme Marshall offered to be the Treasurer.
- We discussed how to get the the word out about this new group to more teachers in SD8. Nashira knows several more teachers who are interested in being a part of it. She will contact them.
- We are concerned that not everyone who might want to be involved even knows about this newly formed local EEPSA chapter / Outdoor Learning Interest Group. How can we reach / recruit more teachers?
- Monica suggested that we contact the Union Local presidents and let them know that we have established a local chapter of EEPSA in SD8. Linda said that she will contact Paul B. (president of NDTA), and the president of the Creston Valley Teacher's Association.
- Megan said she will check the EEPSA website for the guidelines around forming a local chapter and around the roles of each person on the executive. She will email this information to Linda, Nashira, and Graeme.

- The next point of discussion was about our goals as a group. In general, we decided our goal is to promote environmental and place-based learning locally.
- We decided to look up the goals of EEPSA provincially, and we discussed these: <http://eepsa.org/contact/constitution/>
- We agreed with the EEPSA constitution, and we also thought that promoting risk management was an important goal of our local chapter. Graeme further clarified this as best practices in teaching. He suggested that we have a look at the Youth Safe Outdoors website and resources on managing risks when teaching groups of students in an outdoor setting: <http://www.youthsafeoutdoors.ca>
- Another goal for our local chapter is to promote understanding of Place-Based Education amongst teachers.
- Graeme suggested that mentorship and supporting other staff and teachers in developing the skills and confidence to take groups of students outside is an important goal.
- Monica offered that Place-Based Learning is a core part of the new BC curriculum, so bringing that up could be a good way to broach this topic in staff meetings or on the upcoming curriculum development day on Wednesday, March 8th. We discussed how to make sure that time is allotted to place-based education on that day.
- Nashira mentioned that Lindsay McKay is willing to come to a school and support the teacher when taking his or her class outdoors, if you request her support far enough ahead of time.

- The next point of discussion was around our next meeting, and how we could get the word out through Professional Development. The next District Pro-D day is Monday, April 10th. We talked about offering some EE Pro-D on this day, in the afternoon, such as a Panel Discussion and Mentorship / Sharing of Resources, Ideas, and what each of us has had success with as teachers of EE.
- Linda suggested that we could have a panel discussion about the perceived and real barriers that teachers face with doing more outdoor learning with their students. What is holding some teachers back?
- Graeme suggested revisiting the SD8 Field Trip Guidelines and updating them. We had a short discussion about the range of field trips, from a short walk around the block to a multi-day outdoor adventure trip, and how there is a need for risk management with all of these outings.
- The meeting wrapped up at approximately 4:45.
  
- The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 10th (District Pro-D day) at 12:30 pm in the ATLAS Portable at LVR.

**\*New members are very welcome!!**