Rocky Mountain Place Based Learning Network EEPSA Local Chapter Annual General Meeting

December 16, 2020 7:30 MST, via Teams

In attendance: Dana Ford, Alexis Barrett, Laurie Neeve, Tara Whittick, Jenn Meens, Hannah Garvie-Ransen, Natasha Burgess

Minutes adopted from previous AGM: all in favour

1) Welcome/Reconnect

2) Sharing experiences of outdoor learning during pandemic

3) Membership report

* Focus on reigniting spark/excitement about outdoor learning by modeling and inviting others who may be interested to join in

4) Financial report

* Money available: $340.00

Potential uses:

Walking Curriculum book for each zone

Honorarium to story tellers

* Will readdress at next meeting

5) Communications report

* Meg Langley -successful grant application
  + Did not discuss: Alexis to follow up with information she has about this at next meeting or via email

6) Professional Development report

Shared emails from Duncan/Monica via email before meeting. Will focus at this time on upping our outdoor learning time/experiences and will share back at next meeting about successes and next steps.

* From Duncan/Monica:

1. Connect with Selina to assess needs/support (KBEE/CBEEN supported)
   * Ideas for rebuilding momentum?
   * Indigenous integration?
2. virtual local chapter gathering in April for 90 minutes or so
3. CBEEN is considering having a regional local chapter gathering in the fall, since we can't do the spring leadership clinic - perhaps in October or November. **Interest?**
4. <https://cbeen.ca/workshops/>. And working on more as we speak! Including one from Laura Jackman, Bridget O'Malley and Megan Zeni on their awesome outdoor classroom prep position...
5. Windermere Zone RMPBLN- grant application to purchase 9 Outdoor Learning Classroom Kits from the Outdoor Learning Store - covid response funds for Kimberley & Golden to do this too?  <https://outdoorlearning.store/product/custom-outdoor-learning-classroom-kit/>
   * Same as Grab and Go packs?
   * Other items wanted from Outdoor Store?
6. RSA Day application info to Duncan for EE focused presenters- Natasha sent info
   * How to create energy around RSA day?

7) Elections

President: Alexis Barrett

Vice-President/Pro-D: Jenn Meens

Secretary/Communications: Natasha Burgess

Treasurer: Dana Ford

Member-at-Large: Laurie Neeve, Hannah Garvie-Ransen, Tara Whittick, Amy McKenzie, Pascal Carrara

8) Discussion of goals for upcoming year

1. Indigenous integration
2. TMO Day
3. Sharing/Inspiring
   * Do Tomorrow activity document
4. Mentorship program
5. Local outdoor learning teacher
6. Meeting options for planning/connection/inspiration
7. Pro-D opportunities: Forest Bathing

We have decided to table mentorship program/local outdoor learning teacher at this time. We will focus on increasing our indigenous integration and outdoor learning time.

Laurie reported working on a garden project at McKim tying in First Peoples principles. She also discussed tying in land acknowledgements, and building relationships with local First People and challenges in doing that. Relationships take time.

Tara reported Windemere’s focus on tying in languages of Ktunaxa and Shuswap people through land acknowledgements (posted along fence in kid friendly language) and signs of welcome. Also celebrated school-wide focus on 7 Sacred Teachings

Discussed land acknowledgements and how important it is to have authenticity while speaking and not following a script. Talked about acknowledgement lessons and having students create the acknowledgement for the land and teachers modeling this practice.

Laurie mentioned Cree youtube videos “why do land acknowledgements”

Hannah reported SEAs in each class in Invermere so Hannah is outside more often but still not as much as she’d like. She felt like there’s less handwashing outside and some other obstacles have been removed.

Jenn reported not being outside as much as regularly would be because of shift in schedule at the high school. However, her senior students are able to identify benefits to outdoor learning when it’s been possible and this is pushing her to find ways to get outdoors more. She is also eager to build relationship regarding outdoor learning at admin/board level.

Discussed barriers teachers are experiencing: feeling mental load, less collaboration allowed, fear/uncertainty, can’t leave school grounds, no snowshoes/ski allowed, no using bathrooms outside school grounds. Limitations and unclear guidelines are holding people back.

Laurie also notes that academics missing from the spring and the justification to parents makes it more difficult to get outside as often as she would like. She shared that her class does a gratitude circle on Monday mornings outside though!

Tara reported Forest classroom on school ground getting a lot of use, and that her class is doing morning walks daily before even going into school (save handwashing step). Class has created own watercolour paints and tied in Science/SS curriculum beautifully during outdoor learning experiences. It’s wonderful to see school wide excitement around 7 sacred teachings and we talked about value of having all school staff on board with a joint venture/project.

Shared value found in Walking Curriculum book and discussed options of getting this resource for schools or in DRC.

Some lack of clarity voiced around whether outdoor guest speakers (ie Winter Wonder) would be allowed board-wide.

We would like to find out Outdoor TMO day date in winter.

We are all grateful to CBEEN for organizing/sharing Pro-D workshop options for teachers. When we sign up for one, we will try to invite staff members to join us to spark interest in these great resources, but we acknowledge that teachers are being invited to a LOT of workshops online in the evenings and don’t have time for it all.

ACTION: Natasha to email Duncan-

Could you give us more information about canvas sails available to schools?

Is there anyone available to teach skating skills or assist teachers with skating lessons?

We’re loving the pro-d/newsletters you’re sending. Thank you for your efforts!

Completed December 28, 2020

ACTION: Natasha to email Surrena Craig, Karen Shipka, Steve Wyer, and Viveka Johnson introducing our group and including our slideshow.

Completed December 28, 2020

ACTION: RSA Day idea around having a story teller outside in the nature park with us or do via Zoom. Natasha to ask about having a local outdoor option for RSA day.

Completed December 28, 2020

Next Meeting: February 2, 2021 7:30pm

\*2 weeks before reminder of meeting and invite people who might be interested

Send notes to Selina/Duncan/Monica

Completed December 28, 2020