

2019-2010 Vincent Massey School Council meeting – November 20, 2019

Attendance: Allison Klus-Palermo, Shereen Khan, Jeff Siderius, Kateri Deschenes, Gale Wong, Christine Dalglish, Heather Munro, Caitlin Anstee, Jaclyn Scholz, Charmaine Johnson-Mentlak, Anne-Marie Thompson, Christine Moffatt, Sam Kuzak, Chrystal Beckett

1. Meeting was called to order
2. Minutes from Sept. 18th meeting were approved and seconded (names were not recorded)
3. Agenda for October 16th meeting was approved and seconded (names were not recorded)
4. **Teacher Updates (Jeff Siderius, grade 4 teacher)**
 - Whole School:
 - VM has strong connections with international teachers and student program. This fall and winter we are hosting a gr.8 exchange student from Columbia as well a 4 person delegation from Nanjing, China who will be observing in classes
 - The Leadership group's "We Scare Hunger" food drive brought in 1000+ food items and some cash (\$96.15) for the Ottawa Food Bank
 - Top 5 contributing classrooms: Mrs. Shiau gr.5/6 = 154 items; Ms. Kadoura's gr.8 = 153 items; Mr. Fackelmann's gr.6 = 144 items; Mr. Siderius gr.4/5 = 121 items; Ms. Culum gr.7/8 = 98 items.
 - Kinder Division:
 - Nov. 21 kinder will participate in the "Love to Groove" workshop in French, funded by FSL grant
 - U of O students visited and ran teddy bear hospital. Each bear got an x-ray, cast and vaccination.
 - Students are enjoying sledding and shoveling
 - Primary Division
 - Last Tuesday attended a concert by gr.8 orchestra and Suzuki Strings
 - Are participating in the Festival of Lights, Dec. 18
 - Junior Division
 - Girls and boys Bordenball try-outs are starting; it's like handball with goalies, very fast paced. Tournament will be first week or 2 in December
 - Mme. Deere is running the Jr. coding club – it's in its 4th week. They are using microbits and will start 3d printing in the new year
 - Intermediate Division
 - Volleyballs teams selected for tier 1 and 2, starting tournaments next week. Open volleyball for other students 2x/week during recess.
 - Mme. Deere is also running the Int. Coding club; student have been introduced to Raspberry Pi as well as the tech introduced to the Jr. club (above)
 - Collaborating with Hillcrest H.S. on Blacks Excellence club. They will select 2 projects to work on throughout the year to highlight Black Excellence within the VM community
 - Ms. Prokaska and the rainbow club hosted clubs from other schools. 30+ students attended
 - Gr.8s went to MacSkimming. They made sculptures, mandalas, soundscapes, artworks with watercolours and charcoal and have a hot dog cookout

- Gr.8 orchestra had a Suzuki strings workshop where they learned new techniques and a new song
- STEAM workshops are ongoing. Students will visit DeSerres to work on stop-motion animation, storyboarding, bubble drawing
- Fieldtrips for gr.8s to visit high schools. Nov. 14th was Ottawa Technical School, Canterbury H.S. is Nov.21
- All intermediate classes are receiving presentations on mental health - either Youthnet (gr.7s – focus on mental health and technology) or Rideauwood (gr.8s – focus on emotions and substance use)
 - Question – Charmaine: are these workshops open to younger students? Not with this program, sometimes a public health nurse comes in to talk to younger grades about similar topics

5. Principal updates (No VP updates this meeting)

- 2109 Student Survey - Identity-Based Data Collection
 - Conducted between November 26th and December 13th, 2019.
 - Will collect data on all students from Kindergarten to Grade 12.
 - Purpose is to help the District identify where systemic barriers and bias exist within our system with a view to eliminating these barriers through changes to policy, procedures, programs and practices that affect students, staff, and the communities we serve.
 - Findings from the Valuing Voices Student Survey will help the District:
 - better understand the unique and diverse characteristics of the OCDSB student population;
 - identify and respond to barriers to student learning and well-being; and
 - enhance its capacity to serve its increasingly diverse student population and client communities.
 - Overview of Survey:
 - voluntary and confidential.
 - will collect data about student identity using 2 types of questions:
 - Demographic questions about things such as race, gender identity, ethnicity, language and sexual orientation; and
 - Perceptual questions about student’s sense of safety, belonging, engagement, and wellbeing.
 - Communication to Parents and Staff
 - The survey will be distributed electronically; participants will be sent an email with a direct link to the online survey. The email will be sent to parents of students in Kindergarten through Grade 6 and the parent will be asked to complete one survey per child.
 - Students in grades 7-12 will complete the survey during class time. The survey will take about 20 minutes to complete. A paper copy is available upon request.
 - All OCDSB parents and guardians received an email on Nov. 1 explaining the purpose of the survey, the timeline and the "opt out" process.
 - Non-consent process - Consent for participation will be managed as follows:

- For students in K-6: Parents who do NOT want to participate can simply refrain from completing the survey.
 - For students in 7-12: Parents who do NOT want their child to participate must have completed an Opt-out form by November 15, 2019.
- Student Lunch Time Monitors
 - This started the week of Nov 4th in a number of Primary classes
 - Monitors are students in grades 4-8
 - Lockdown Practice
 - Oct 28 and Nov. 18
 - School Resource Officer was present for both
 - The lockdowns went well and students followed procedure expectations very well.
 - Wish Lists by Division
 - Kinder
 - Scientist in school \$195 per class
 - iTunes gift cards in \$10 denominations (4 cards per classroom-5 classrooms in total)
 - LEGO (3 classrooms in need) [not Duplo]
 - School membership to starfall.com (\$270 USA)
 - Primary
 - UOttawa Mobile Makerspace - come to VM to work with primary classes on coding activities \$525 - 4 classes OR \$995 - 8 classes - the whole primary division would be able to participate
 - Lego 790 pieces classic box X 3 \$59.95 each
 - Raz Kids Subscription \$ 109.95/class
 - Junior
 - Hip Hop \$1800.00 +HST for 5 days (all jr. classes) was November
 - Slam Poetry Workshops~\$700-800 1 hr. workshop/jr. class
 - Science workshops (Grade 5 & 6) \$700-800 March 2,3, 4- full days
 - Intermediate
 - Metal pulley with metal frame and Wooden metre stick \$272.33 tax included
 - Indoor Soccer Balls (3-4) \$20.50 each
 - Dodgeballs (6) \$95.50
 - Foam Footballs (6) \$97.25
 - Bean Bags (26) x 2 \$59.75 x 2 = 119.5
 - Rubber chicken (3-5) \$15.25 each
 - Comment – we should share with parents on FB in case they want to buy these items for xmas
 - Question (e-mail) – updates on lead in drinking fountain?
 - Is it the fountain, or the pipes? Answer: we follow board policies, but it's up to the board to respond if there are issues. We're waiting of the 2019 report. Principal is asked to share it when it's rec'd

- Questions (Heather) - Lunch monitors – who is organizing? 1 student is doing it but her partner doesn't show up and she doesn't want to do it on her own. Can we find someone to organize it so it's not done class-by-class? Maybe leadership club or school council? Answer : Doesn't sound like that would work but
- Question – what do we do if teachers go on strike with very little notice? Answer: Teachers need to give 5 days' notice for "work to rule" or full strike
- Retirement:
 - The Principal has made a big decision to retire at the end of Dec. and she read a lovely statement to the council and thanked them for their support. The school board is committed to continuity and are looking for someone to start Jan.1. Dorothy, superintendent, will contact Sam in Dec. to talk about the process
 - Question (Charmaine) – Continuity is important. Is the VP staying on? Answer: Yes. Board is aware of the issues with the admin at VM and knows the council is concerned that it's problematic for kids to see constant turnover
 - Question (Allison) – Are there underlying issues in the admin? Kateri says no it's a nice place to work
 - Question (Sam) – will the new principal cover just until June or permanent? Kateri says permanent
 - Comment (Christine) – biggest issue is communication. Parents need to know what's going on
 - Question (Heather) – Teacher Alexandra Smith is gone but there's no communication about it, kids keep having temporary replacements. Kateri says we need 5 weeks' notice to get a long term occasional but there's a shortage of teachers. There are days when we can't get supply teachers. It's hard to find long term occasional teachers.
 - Question (Kate) – did we update the Principal Profile? Yes, last meeting.
 - Question (Christine) – when will the students be told? Kids will be told when a new Principal has been appointed, to avoid kid's feeling stressed in advance – and kids will have a chance to say good-bye
 - Question (Sam) – Christmas assembly dates? Not known yet, possibly Dec.18 but will be in the Friday update

6. Treasurer's Report – update doesn't include the school account

- over \$2400 in the account; we have \$500 transfer coming soon from the school account to this one for library purchases

7. Clothing Swap

- Went really well and brought in \$158.
- Leftover items were donated to either Value Village, Suits His Style, Youville Centre or dropped off at Boomerang Kids for consignment
- Will run another one in the spring and make it an annual event.

8. Gardening club:

- need to send a thank-you note to Home Depot who donated 25 bags of mulch ~\$90
- the VM school sign needs to be painted, it was planned for last summer
- maybe \$ for new bushes for next summer
- Has been in touch with the OCDSB (Dan Fournier) and there's a plan of where we could add new trees; some trees need to be inspected to see if they're viable.
 - Question: Can we get trees donated? Answer: this is something we can look at as a council.
 - Question (Heather) – does the board look after the trees? Answer: *not recorded*

9. Samko Mikno sale

- Took place Nov.7-11
- No update on receipt yet as they are due Nov.25. We will not find out the total from online sales until we receive the cheque from the sale

10. Movie night update

- next one is Dec.13th if there is no strike
 - Question (Charmaine) - liability re: school sanctioned events? Do we need to add a disclaimer about us not being responsible? Minimize the risk by having a 3rd-party host the event? Answer: We can look into this as a council
 - Question (Galen) – is there a responsibility for there to be someone who has first aid training? Answer: No but parents must stay with their own kids

11. Traffic safety update

- General update: Smyth Rd. is getting a “community safety zone” designation with photo radar. Starts Dec.2nd for a 90 day test-phase
 - Question (Charmaine) – what about ambulances? Answer: We're told the cameras can identify first responders and won't ticket them

12. Library rejuvenation

- Scholastic book fair Nov.14 to 16
- New books will be on the shelves in the spring (March).
- New fundraising program is out called FlipGive; we raised \$400 in 2 weeks. Tammy also purchased some books and needs reimbursement.

13. Upcoming calendar events

- Winterfest – not 100% that we can do this if there's a strike. POSTPONED
- Dance-a-thon is still on for Jan.10, 2020 during school hours. Pledge forms: \$ going to library and other school fundraising needs

14. New business? None to report

Meeting adjourned.