

2020-2021 Vincent Massey School Council meeting – May 19, 2021

Attendance: Ginette Thibeault (Principal), Scott Macklin (VP), Nivin Radwan (Teacher), Chrystal Beckett, Janet Wallace, Tammy Windsor, Marina Deere, Heather Munro, Kate Connolly, Chris Moffat, Marlene Doyle, Donna Yao, Erinn Brooks,

1. Meeting was called to order
2. Previous meeting minutes were approved (Christina Moffat, Chrystal Beckett). Agenda for meeting was approved and seconded (Christina Moffat, Chrystal Beckett)

3. Teacher updates (Marina Deere)

Kindergarten:

- Kinder classes are raising caterpillars.
- \$200 from council will spend money on virtual field trip, Little Rays Reptiles

Primary

- Teachers are proud and impressed by students learning at home.

Junior

- Grade 6 classes will do a virtual promotion celebration to intermediate division. Parent contributions/ideas are welcome. Contact is Niven Radwan.

Intermediate

- End of year celebration: certificates, awards, video, grad shirts. Specific plan depends on if we go back to in person learning.
- Students are working on yearbook and year end celebration
- Grade 7s working on passion projects.
- Rainbow club is running virtually for Grade 8 students. Student led. Students in Grades 6 and 7 will be invited while the meetings are virtual. Wednesdays first recess.
- Yearbook: Students are being asked to contribute individual pages.

Questions:

- Is the rainbow club open to OCV students as well? Right now just the Grade 8s. We could include them. Will consider.
- Is the yearbook going to be paper-less or printed and bound (old school)? It may be both. Depends on interest and cost. May take a survey to determine interest in a paper copy,

4. Grade 8 Graduation Project

Does the school require funds from council? Marina says they have the funds. Shirts \$18/student. Parent liaisons (Kate Connolly, Heather Munro and Marlene Doyle) are available to assist with anything. Entirely dependent on if students are in class or online. There can be no food distribution as part of any plan. We could investigate getting a celebrity shout out to the class. If additional funds are required, the Intermediate division still has the \$500 council gave last month.

5. Refuse to Lose.

There have been no nominations; council nominated the custodial staff. We will vote on it at the June meeting. Amanda Baumgarden is in charge of getting the plaque made.

6. Principal Updates (Ginette Thibeault)

- Planning for next year: Staffing and timetables, transition meetings, IPRC meetings.
- Meeting with teachers for class lists. Some classes have no options as there is only a single class. Consideration of academic, social, emotional needs where possible.
- Planning for 615 to 620 students next year.
- WIFI updated.
- Custodial staff have been working on special projects: painting, deep cleaning.
- Hoping and planning to have students back in class in June.
- Considering updating the atrium with fresh paint and art to create a more welcoming environment. Suggestions welcome.
- Purchases with school council funds: Microbits for coding. Online dictionaries. Fitness games. Specialized paints for classes. Outdoor equipment. Caterpillars.

7. Board Updates (Scott Macklin)

- All families received an email from Ginette this week about how to change their option for in-person or in-school learning next year. This change needs to be completed prior to June 1, 6PM. If you are not changing your choice, no action required.
- OCDSB has a new pride flag that will be flown at schools for the month of June.
- Vaccine update: there is no information about vaccinations through the schools.
- Summer School registration open until June 24. Grade 6 and up.
- Reports cards now available via email.
- Covid 19 benefit is available to parents. Apply through the province.

Important Dates:

May 20 - OCDSB Rainbow Forum

May 24 - Victoria Day

June 8 & 10 - Junior Achievement Economics for Success days (Intermediate grades)

June 23 - Report Cards available online

June 25 - Last Day of School - students

8. Planning for next year

Council needs to come up with the dates for meeting nights, and fundraising events and get them to Mary to book the rooms.

Chrystal will review the requests from a prior non-Covid year and request the dates from Mary.

9. Fundraising

Erinn Brooks is interested in looking into a dance-a-thon. Kate Connolly will get the information to her from the parent that had looked into this in 2019. Put this on the September Agenda.

Tammie Winsor has suggested a craft fair as a fundraiser/community event. She is not interested in organising it.

Question: Is there any news about if parents will be allowed back in the school in September? Ginette: No firm answer. Protocols are slated to be the same as now and scaled back when possible.

10. Treasurer's Report

\$3,875 in account

\$1,800 earmarked for kinder yard

\$2,074 available

The kinder yard has not spent any money yet as books need to be closed the end of June. Erinn is purchasing the plants over the next few weeks. She will submit the invoices as they come in. The expenses for the kitchen may not be in for June.

11. Kinder Project

- Clover and soil has been purchased and planted on the hill
- Garden beds have been pre-dug. Big planting day scheduled for this weekend.
- There are still slots available for families to sign up and help with planting.
- Still looking for volunteers to water over the summer. There are 3 available weeks. Reach out to gardening committee if interested. Ginette and Scott can sign off on volunteer hours if needed.
- Hose purchased.
- Plants are approved, mulch being delivered Friday.
- Stencils ordered for Kindergarden classes to paint the asphalt. Erinn and Scott will sort the painting.

Question: Do we have a plan to deal with the existing wooden structures in the Kinder yard? They are getting old and in poor repair. Ginette: Norm can look at them. If they are damaged, they will be removed.

12. Library Rejuvenations

- We have raised \$8,064 to date. \$255 in Flip Give. \$1,000 earmarked for Maker Space project.
- May \$2,400 book purchase, need clarity on if this money is coming from council funds or school funds? Ginette will have to check.
- Books on diversity were requested by council. Elliott has been working on this project, focus on BIPOC biographies, fiction by BIPOC authors, with BIPOC characters.
- Elliot reports a hole in non-fiction black history books at junior level. Requests \$500.
- Vote to release \$500 to Elliot. Council voted to approve.
- Tammie would like a launch of the new library.
- Tammie has one more year as chair of this committee. Someone will need to replace her.

13. PRO Grant

- Zoom event on May 31. Open to all VM families.
- Run by Rideauwood additions. Topic is screen time and kids.
- Chrystal will provide registration information to Scott for the Friday update.

14. New/Other Business

Erinn: Interested in starting a sub-committee for Equity and Inclusion. Have spoken to Scott about this. Can we put this on the September agenda for further discussion?

Meeting adjourned at 8:20PM