

2020-2021 Vincent Massey School Council meeting – January 20, 2021

Attendance: Ginette Thibeault (Principal), Scott Macklin (VP), Nivin Radwan (Teacher), Chrystal Beckett, Christina Moffat, Heather Munro, Allison Klus-Palermo, Kate Connolly, Christine Dalglish, Tammie Winsor, Brennah Holley, Naomi Hirshberg Mitchell, Shabnam Ebrat, Shereen Khan, Umar Mustafa, Janet Mark Wallace, Marlene Doyle, Jacqueline

1. Meeting was called to order
2. Previous meeting minutes were approved (Christine Moffat, Kate Connolly). Agenda for meeting was approved and seconded (Christine Moffat, Kate Connolly)
3. **Teacher updates** (Nivin Radwan)
 - Teachers are focused on the switch to virtual teaching
 - Junior Division: meeting scheduled next week, reviewing virtual resources for the wish list
 - Primary Division: no updates
 - Intermediates Division: no updates

4. Principal Updates

School Updates:

- Class re-organization for in-person students due to numbers being over the hard cap: Grade 1, 2 and 3 in English program
- Staff collaborating on reports
- Desks and classes ready to go for in-person learning
- Kindergarten Virtual INFO night - Thursday, January 28th at 6pm
- Council Chairs or committees are welcomed to join us to provide info to new families or this can also be done later with those who have registered
- Principal Profile: due every start of the school year for Council to review

Staffing updates:

- Three new Long Term Occasional Teachers hired
 - Peter Hai Niu - Grade 7 English and Gifted
 - Shauna McCarlie - Grade 2 English
 - Anthony McIntosh - Grade 6 English
- Zeynep Gunesberg is retiring - January 29th is her last day. Mary Rath is taking over for Zeynep; Sandra Reid has been hired to take over for Mary's position.

Facilities Update:

- There are now 2 accessible parking spots
- Snow removal - contractor is aware that snow must be blown away this year in order to clear the path at the back of the parking lot and to avoid creating a visual barrier to the class patches in the field for supervision - Mr. Field is monitoring
- One of the basketball nets damaged last winter has been replaced
- One of the accessible washrooms on the first floor has been updated

Library Updates:

- The books ordered from the first \$1800 order have arrived and have been catalogued

- There is currently another book order of \$1,400
- Working on spending the remaining fund (approx \$1,300)
- Books purchased so far include K-3 early science resources, Indigenous resources and more culturally appropriate Canadian history resources, French books, upgrading our biography section, STEM collection, and books on diversity.

COVID related information:

- Gymnasium is now available for indoor classes and a schedule has been created. OPH is still encouraging physical education to take place outside - most classes are still outside
- Equipment such as balls are now allowed in physical education classes with strict protocols in place
- More PE/DPA equipment has been purchased (\$5000 - \$2000 from Council (Thank-you!), \$3000 from school account) Some examples: winterkits, foam crocket sets, bean bag toss games, balance boards, exercise mats, skipping ropes, bowling sets, etc.
- 105 Chromebooks have been sent home to families who have requested them for the current at home learning period
- When we return to in-person classes students in grades 1-3 will also be required to wear masks all day (most were already doing this)
- Masks are now required to be worn outside by students at recess (this has always been a requirement for staff)
- We continue to be in close contact with our assigned OPH nurse through email text and regular visits.

Important Dates:

- Friday, January 22 - PA day for report card writing - no class for students
 - Thursday, January 28 - Kindergarten Information Night
 - Thursday, February 11 - report cards available in parent portal
 - Thursday, February 11 - Term 2 IEPs sent home
 - Friday, February 12 - PA Day
 - Monday, February 15 - Family Day
 - March 15-19 - March Break
- Question: Do kids need to change their masks from morning to afternoon? Answer: No, although teachers are provided 2 per day. Students have been asked to wash reusable masks at night; teachers have extra masks for students who many need them.

5. Treasurers Report

- New Account has been opened it has two cards to access the account. One is held by Heather the other is held by Crystal. Passwords are not transferable so when a new treasurer and chair sign up they will need a letter from the school and will need to obtain new cards and the old ones will need to be collected and destroyed
- The account is a "Business Essentials Savings Account". There is no fee for this account and we do accrue interest. Included in the account are 2 Debits and Cheques per month and credits or deposits up to 999. After this Debits cost \$3.50 and Credits cost \$1.00. Depositing cash as a fee of \$10.00 per \$1000.

- The old account is still open at this time and currently has the Garden Club grant in the account. When and if we want to close that account a letter is required from the school

Current Balances:

Total in Council Account: \$5,919.01

- Library Total: \$3,012.69
- Available funds in account: \$2,906.32
- Garden Fund: \$3,850.00

Amount in School Account: \$6,591.39

- Library Total: \$1,522.00
- Still Pending from Wish List: \$400.00
- Available funds in account: \$4,669.39

Some purchases made:

- \$1,691.39 French Books for Library
- \$1,200.00 Wish List Items
- \$400.00 Additional Wish List items

6. Fundraising

- Do Nothing – late March. Zeynep or Mary in the office can help set-up the School Cash Online entries
- Erinn Brooks volunteered to help promote the fundraiser via Facebook
- Question: do we have to use the funds this year? Answer: Ginette mentioned that we are encouraged to spend the funds in the year the money was raised.
- Question: Can we add options to the fundraiser so that people can select which initiative they want to support with their funds? Answer: It may be too hard to keep funds separate

7. Kinder Project

Community Environmental Projects Grant Program

- a) Received \$3850 for 2021 for: plants/shrubs (\$300), plant protection (\$150), compost & mulch (\$2000), planting table (aka mud kitchen)(\$1000), child-sized gardening tools (\$400)
- b) Additional council fundraising (\$500 goal) for mud kitchen
- c) Approve revised concept plan (attachment 1) from Jeff Kaster (Evergreen); timelines
- d) Approve selection and ordering of mud kitchen ASAP. ~\$1500 installed.
- e) Advertise at January 28th Kinder Information night. Will need more gardening group volunteers for this project and ongoing watering/maintenance of all gardens. Contact to volunteer: Jacqueline.willmore@gmail.com

City of Ottawa School Yard Tree Planting Grant

- a) In-kind funding for 4 new trees in kinder yard spring 2021: Honey locust 50mm, hackberry 50mm, Colorado spruce 200cm and white cedar 200cm.
- b) Approve tree selection and locations (with slight modification from Jeff to swap locations of hackberry & honey locust) from Heather Pelz
- c) Request for VM financial support of \$790 (\$170 per tree plus \$110 mobilization) for tree protection fencing

- Plant may need to be ordered early to avoid delays caused by COVID
- Grant needs approval by Feb.1 from Dan Fournier. Team will keep Ginette in the loop
- Vote to release funds – decided on \$500: Approve by Chrystal Beckett, seconded by Chris Moffat
- Next step is to present at the kinder open house
- Chrystal will help create posters to promote the new grants & improvements in the Vistas newspaper and via City Councillor Cloutier
- Comment from Tammie: this is a great time to promote this initiative, to drum up support for volunteers

8. Library Rejuvenation

- No updates to share with the committee.
- Tammie will write a blurb for the Friday email to update parents on the new books purchased

9. Other/New Business

- Janet encouraged people to take part in the City's consultation on the new 25 year plan for the city.
- Date for next meeting: Feb.17
- Question: Info night for kids going into high school? Answer: Was in the last Friday's update

10. Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm