

2020-2021 Vincent Massey School Council meeting – February 17, 2021

Attendance: Ginette Thibeault (absent), Scott Macklin (VP), Nivin Radwan (Teacher), Chrystal Beckett, Christina Moffat, Heather Munro, Allison Klus-Palermo, Kate Connolly, Erinn Brooks, Janet Mark Wallace, Jacqueline Willmore, Huda Salem, Amanda Bongard, Donna Yau

1. Meeting was called to order
2. Previous meeting minutes were approved (Christina Moffat, Chrystal Beckett). Agenda for meeting was approved and seconded (names not recorded)
3. **Teacher updates** (Nivin Radwan)
 - Kinder Division: no updates
 - Junior Division: For the week that was original scheduled for March break, division will focus on mental health: spirit days every day, guest speakers, art projects, etc. If anyone from parent council who can volunteer, they can email nivin.radwan@ocdsb.ca. Also looking to book Love to Groove in the spring respecting COVID rules. Parent Amanda Bongard offered to share online activities and resources from the National Resource Council.
 - Primary Division: Looking forward to a virtual workshop on traditional indigenous music
 - Intermediates Division: EF7 classes have established a group to do random acts of kindness in the Russell Heights community. Planning a sled-a-thon to raise funds to put together gift bags with a goal to raise \$1000.

4. **Principal Updates** (Scot Macklin on behalf of Ginette Thibeault)

School Highlights:

- Smooth transition to return to in-person learning - great to see our students smiling and so happy to see each other.
- Homework Help Program: support for grade 7 to 12 - accessible for all OCDSB students in these grades. This year it is a virtual program that is supervised and can support students in all subject areas. We will ask our intermediate teachers to put this info in their Google Classroom
 - **Link to OCDSB Virtual Support Program:**
<https://www.ocdsb.ca/cms/One.aspx?portalId=55478&pageId=1513582>
 - **Link to Registration Form:**
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdDXnmUSIYU6-gvAY9NT_tpauEl7zISY86uvtX8g77Qlwspkw/viewform
- **OPH Screening:** Ottawa Public Health (OPH), in collaboration with CHEO and local healthcare partners, is running a COVID-19 rapid testing clinic for students, staff, and their families who attend your school.
- One clinic will be held at St. Patrick's High School, located at 2525 Alta Vista Dr, on:
 - **Saturday February 20**
 - 9 am to 9:30 am (staff of the school and their families)
 - 9:30 am to 3:30 pm (all students, staff, and their families)
 - **Sunday February 21**
 - 8:30 am to 9 am (staff of the school and their families)
 - 9 am to 3 pm (all students, staff, and their families)
- Testing is for everyone in your family or household; those with or without symptoms of COVID-19, and those who have or have not been exposed to COVID-19. The purpose of these rapid testing clinics is to identify people with COVID-19 to help prevent spread at home and in our

community and keep our classes and schools open. The risk of getting COVID-19 by going to a testing site is very low. OPH, CHEO and our health partners have many precautions put in place to reduce this risk.

- Question: Do we get the results the same day? Answer: Jacqueline, who works at OPH, mentioned that you get the results the same day if you're positive; if negative, you'll get them shortly thereafter. Jacqueline will post info about the clinic on the council FB group.
- **Report Cards:** Elementary report cards will be available on the Report Card Portal at 9:00a.m. on Thursday, February, 18th. This reporting period reflects learning that has occurred in a modified learning environment as required by the provincial public health guidelines. The pandemic may have resulted in the need for possible adaptations to teaching and assessment practices. Ongoing communication with your child's educators will provide additional information pertaining to their progress. To know more about accessing your child's report card visit the OCDSB Report Card Portal webpage.
- Scott flagged that there are some current technical issues with the report card portal which the board is working on. If parents experience issues seeing teacher comments, they can email the school for a PDF copy.

Board Updates:

- Planning for the 2021/2022 school year is still underway.
- At the moment we are in the process of pre-registering all students to their home "bricks and mortar" schools for September 2021
- Throughout the pandemic we have also learned that we can operate in person schools safely and use technology effectively to support learning and to manage transitions in the event of positive cases. We want students and staff to be back in school following safety precautions.
- We will have a remote option, but that is primarily intended to accommodate those families whose needs are such that in person schooling is not an effective solution. In person learning can operate safely and is critical to student learning and well-being.
- The Board is looking across the province at a variety of models and proposals for 2021/22 will be brought forward to the Board meeting next week.
- Following that, information will be sent out to outline what options will be offered

Important Dates:

- Thursday, February 18 - report cards available in parent portal
- Thursday, February 25 - Term 2 IEPs sent home
- Friday, March 12 - Tropical Day
- Thursday, April 1st - Fashion Disaster Day
- April 2 - 5 - Easter weekend
- April 12 -16 - Spring Break

Parent input/feedback: Survey webpage

- This week, a survey was launched to check-in with OCDSB students (grades 7-12), parents/guardians, and staff using the platform thoughtexchange. The survey feedback will inform our work for this year and will help us to plan for next year.
- The survey is open until Friday, February 26th.
- To inform our next steps, we need to hear from as many people as possible about their experiences, challenges, and successes.
- All participants will be asked to:

- Answer some multiple choice questions; and
- Tell us (in their own words) about their current experience. They will also have the opportunity to see and rate the thoughts of others.
- Will translation be available? Yes, if a participant wants to participate in a language other than English, they can do so by clicking 'Change language' from the drop-down menu on the Introduction page for their exchange. Further instructions on how to participate in another language can be found on the thoughtexchange help page.

5. Fundraising

- Do Nothing – Allison will update poster and work with office staff to set up School Cash Online. Motion for the dates of the fundraiser to be March 22-28 date was carried (Kerri Rodier, Chrystal Beckett).
- From funds raised, \$500 was approved at Jan.20th meeting for the gardening club

6. End of year – gr.8

- Grade 8 parent council working group has been established: Kate Connolly, Heather Munro, Marlene Doyle. They need a teacher contact, possibly Marena Deere. Scott will engage.

7. Teacher Wishlists

- Chris Moffat proposed giving each division \$500; motion carried (seconded by Heather Munro).
- Scott will engage with teachers to finalize their wish lists.
- Note: we're not supposed to pay for anything that they Board is responsible for, such as school supplies.

8. Gardening club update

- Jacqueline recently learned of the need for a stone base under mud kitchen so that it's accessible; could need \$1000 extra on top of the \$500 that council approved last month. Motion to grant the additional \$1000 carried (Allison Klus-Palermo, Chris Moffat).
- Also looking at adding sidewalk art (snake with numbers, hopscotch squares, alphabet, etc.)
- Meeting again on March 13th; after that they will recruit families to help with planting around Apr.22 Earth Day. Note: Apr.23 is a PD day.

9. Other/New Business

- Next meeting will be March 17th, then April 21st.
- Flagging to add the 'Refuse to Lose' award to the March agenda. Amanda can help find someone to do the plaque for the hallway.
- Huda asked why parents are still not allowed to enter the school when city and provincial restriction are being lifted or eased? Scott mentioned that for this school year, due to COVID the school boards made the decision not to allow anyone other than school staff or students in the building. This includes parent volunteers, groups renting space, etc.

10. Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm