

2022-2023 Vincent Massey School Council meeting – October 12, 2022

Attendance:

VM staff: Julie Chouinard, Susan Bouwer, Trisha Yourth

Executive: Erinn Brooks, Erin Corbin, Katie Eberts

Members: Caitlin Anstee, Kate Connolly, Jacqueline Willmore, L Mack, Christine Dagleish, Linda Lin, Kerrie Rodier, Tihana Miletic, Tori Moore

1. Meeting was called to order
2. September 2022 meeting minutes accepted (moved by Erinn Brooks, seconded by Caitlin Anstee)
3. Election for executive:
 - Chair: Katie Eberts
 - Treasurer: Erinn Brooks
 - Secretary: Erin Corbin

Nominations moved by Julie, seconded by Kerrie Rodier

4. Principal's Corner (presented by Julie Chouinard)

PA day focus (October 7)

- Excellent learning and discussion
- Topics included STEM, conditions for learning, literacy, science, ensuring culturally relevant, responsive pedagogy; honouring everything a child brings with them

Student learning

- Field trips underway – very exciting
- Para sports was at the school to play soccer, curling and hockey
 - Wonderful opportunity for students to try different sports and different ways to express their physical abilities; students were very enthusiastic

School building

- Looking at the wooden boat in kinder yard; not an emergency but some wood will be replaced
- Looking at taking care of erosion around slide in kinder yard; will build some platforms to address that
- Chief custodian and staff members addressing the dog waste in the school yard
 - Will put a note in weekly email

Staffing

- Had higher student enrollment than originally projected; have created a new grade 4 early French immersion class
- Has impacted all other primary grades in immersion; domino effect; there are no more split classes
- New grade 4 teachers start tomorrow

- Looking to hire a tutor for 3-5 hours a day and after school as well; 4-5 days a week from end of October to December; pilot project

Question: Are there extra classrooms? Notice that portables are gone

Answer: Portables were moved to schools who desperately needed them as classrooms; we weren't using as a classroom because we had space in the school. Found a room in the school for the new Grade 4 class.

Community

- VM open house took place on September 22; was a happy return to welcoming families in the school; very well-attended; went extremely well
- Parent teacher conferences coming in November; PA day attached to this because teachers will be working in the evening

5. Teacher updates (presented by Trisha Yourth)

Kinder

- Have decided not to do pizza Fridays, but will do 2 special pizza days
- Will be performing at Remembrance Day ceremony – Peace in my Fingers
- Starting library routine

Primary

- Terry Fox run took place October 6th
- Kinder to Grade 2 were out together; then grades 3-8

Junior

- Continue cross-country running, have been practicing every day; meet will take place at Terry Fox; forms going home Friday
- Clubs have started up:
 - E-club
 - Ukulele club
 - Friendship bracelet club
- Junior Halloween dance coming up

Intermediate

- Popcorn sales start Friday
- October 28 will host a Halloween dance
- Student Council would like movie night to return; request to parent council; students offered to volunteer
- Intermediate cross-country meet will take place at Kanata Recreation Centre

6. Treasurers Report

- \$93.75 generated from popcorn sales at September meet and greet
- School council line: \$7,820.16 (\$1,000 earmarked for maker space)
- RBC account: \$2,781.35
- Funds have not been allocated; looking for ways to support school in an impactful way; asking for teacher wish lists

Action item: Trisha to ask staff via Google doc; Julie to send back to School Council

Question: Can Council support families in need for Macskimming field trip? Can we donate through School Cash Online or another way? Can this be advertised?

Answered by Julie: for this year, we will not be asking for any school fees; typically, it was \$20/student or \$45/family with more than 2 children

- If students are going on field trips or taking part in activities where fees are involved, students will typically pay the cost for cost recovery
- However the school will always cover fee if needed; won't leave any child behind; no questions asked
- Families are always welcome to donate to the school; the board can provide a charitable receipt
- Another way is to add a special line for School Cash Online (e.g. Macskimming, bus + entry)
- Third option is to put a note in weekly email advertising possibility of making a donation; families can reach out to Julie

Action item: Julie to look into adding a line to School Cash Online for families to donate to other families, as willing/available

Question: what about toy donations; any toy drive coming up?

Answered by Julie: if your child is in same age group as toys that you're donating, you can reach out to your child's teacher; if not, can reach out to Mary in office; just need to make sure they are CSA approved, meet all the safety and compatibility requirements

Suggestion: buy books from local libraries during library book sales; great way to increase book selection for classrooms and teachers; inexpensive way to contribute positively. Can we ask VM parents to go to local library branches and value village shops to buy books? Don't have to be new, but will be new to our kids.

Discussion:

- Suggest using Instagram, VM website and FB group to promote
- Recommend having message come from parents rather than teachers
- Suggest speaking with child's teacher first to ensure purchasing books that will be most useful
- Get grandparents involved
- Potential to leverage a theme – national day for truth and reconciliation; resources would be good to focus on; diversity and equity
- Could tie-in with scholastic book fair; could channel towards teacher wish lists

7. Library rejuvenation update

- Kerrie gave a recap of the fundraising efforts
- Gap in knowledge/awareness of current status of project; need update from previous Committee lead
- Julie suggested that we could have someone from tendered vendors provide a design (with furniture etc.), and cost estimate; would inform next steps; as reference, at Knoxdale Public School, furniture and shelves was ~\$20K; did not include books
- Can think about resource renewal and/or furniture/design renewal; parents tend to support giving money for books, less so for expensive furniture
- Can look into making this a school priority

- Trisha: if looking to get money for projects like this, there is something through [OTIP](#); make a video to tell about project, \$5000 award; they pick top 4.
- Anyone interested in taking over the library rejuvenation project? Looking for someone

Action item: Erin will contact Tammy to pull together status update

8. Movie night + clothing swap

- First movie planned for November 25
- Questions for parent council:
 - Eating – ok to eat in gym and clean up
 - Liability insurance – Katie to investigate further
 - Permit for showing movie – yes, required
 - Booked rooms – yes, both gyms are booked

9. Equity Committee

- Slogan not an inclusive message; want to explore options

10. Communications

- Julie can include a school council section in Friday update
- Can also send a stand alone email as necessary for targeted communications
- Suggest that we keep it simple and easy
- Caitlin, Erin, Erinn & Katie to connect about web and other communications updates

11. Gardening Committee

- Kinder/front yard cleanup: Jacqueline helped get grants; took over organizing clean-up of gardens, typically need a big clean up in fall and spring
- Always looking for people to help
- This Saturday at 1pm; rain date Saturday October 22
- Backup date: Burlap + cleanup November 26

Next meeting: is Wednesday, November 16 at 6:30pm

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM