

# 2022-2023 Vincent Massey School Council meeting

## November 16, 2022

Attendance:

**VM staff:** Julie Chouinard, Susan Bower, Trisha Yourth, student council representative - Rosalie Dillon (Daniel Bonell as teacher representative for student council)

**Executive:** Erinn Brooks, Erin Corbin, Katie Eberts

**Members:** Caitlin Anstee, Heather Munro, Laurie Mack, Kate Connolly

1. Meeting was called to order
2. October 2022 meeting minutes accepted (moved by Katie Eberts, seconded by Erin Corbin, passed)
3. Principal's Update (presented by Julie Chouinard)
  - Lost and found - the school will keep the items until movie night and what doesn't get claimed will be donated (maybe through the clothing swap for clean items)
  - Looking into getting VM merch, but are having trouble finding a supplier.
    - Julie asked if this was something that the school council would be willing to take on to help organize
    - Past process was a more involved approach, bulk orders were made, prepaid in advance, takes more time commitment to organize.
    - Found a new company through another school but might not have a lot of choice.
    - Could also explore an E-store concept - orders can be delivered to the school - or to homes for a fee. Proposed products - provide links to parents. Set-up takes a bit of time.
    - The brand of clothing offered is also a consideration to ensure quality but also impacts the price point (ex. Gilden vs Under Armour)
    - Erinn mentioned that her school has clothing for sale, will look into the supplier
  - PD Day was held Nov 4 - Topic was equity centered trauma informed education, as well as training on Aspen (system used for attendance, report cards)
  - Library rejuvenation - Julie reached out to find contact of a person that did a sketch for another school
  - Teachers are visiting from Spain for the next two weeks, visiting Mrs. Rendell's class and others.
  - Year 1 candidate teachers just started.
  - Student progress reports go out tomorrow electronically
  - Dental screening happened last week
  - Grade 7, 8 vaccinations are tomorrow
  - Scholastic book fair is next week
4. Teacher updates (presented by Trisha Yourth)
  - Teacher wish list emailed to parent council email address.
  - Kinder classes -

- went to the Halloween dance and had a blast
- Performed Peace in my fingers
- Enjoyed making snowmen today
- Primary -
  - 2/3 split class won bulletin board contest
  - Grade 1, 2 dance Wed
- Junior -
  - enjoyed the dance
  - next sport triple ball (similar to volleyball)
  - Nov 22,23 going to MacSkimming
- Intermediate -
  - dance went well.
  - Went to regionals for football
- Pumpkin bowl held recently - teachers vs intermediate students, other students came to watch, everyone had a great time
- Other activities ongoing - Yearbook, Student council, friendship bracelet making club etc

5. Student Council updates (presented by Rosalie Dillon)

- Would like to help with movie night and would like to understand what would be their responsibilities
  - volunteers needed to help with set up and coordinate beverages and popcorn and to help show people where bathrooms are and the clothing swap. Katie or Erinn will be in touch to coordinate and explain
- End of year BBQ - students would like to have a whole school BBQ - Knoxdale has done this before, Julie could put council in touch with the council there to help understand what is needed to run such an event

6. Communications initiatives

The school council webpage on the VMPS site has been updated. Discussed adding the meeting link to the webpage but decided not to post publicly but add a note that parents can email the school council email address for the link and that it can be found in Julie's principal emails. Discussion held about the School council Facebook page - anyone can post. A parent mentioned that Alta Vista school restricts this to only a few people - reason why we allow all to post? It was noted that it is likely open because all parents are part of parent council. However, all administrators of the page are former council executives or members and many no longer have children that attend VM. It was suggested that the name of the FB page could be changed to Families of VMPS. To be determined at a future date.

7. (Event) Book Giveaway (March) (presented by Heather Munro)

In the past this event was usually held the Thursday before March break in the library (this year that would be March 9, 2023). Classes come for students to pick out a book. Principal would set a schedule for classes to sign up. Call out to parents in the weeks before to send in books with children to donate. The organizer goes in to the school a few days a week to empty boxes and takes books to the library.

Parent council sorts and puts out books on tables by divisions - primary, intermediate etc. Need to look into booking the library.

Would like to have 1-2 volunteers to help to find out what is involved as this will be Heather's last year.

Could put out a box at the Jan movie night for families to bring in books.

Will do a call out for volunteers at the January meeting. Would need more volunteers on the Wed night. (night of council meeting) - could be an in person meeting for that one.

Julie will check to see if the library is free.

8. Treasurer's report

No changes from last month.

Bank account - 2,791.90

School account - 7,820.16 (\$1,000 is for maker space for the library)

Total - 10,612.06

The previous and new Chairs need to go to the bank to switch the signing authorities.

9. Teacher wish lists

A discussion took place about whether the council should fund specific purchases from teacher wish lists or allocate a certain dollar amount per division or educator to allow them to decide. There are 44.5 teachers, 8 ECEs and 7EAs

Motion to allocate \$100 per classroom and to each EA that operates independently. Question was raised about whether the council had enough funds that were not already earmarked for the library

It was decided that council will make a final decision once we have the information on the money for the library

In order to do so on a timely basis it was decided to have another council meeting before the holidays. Next meeting will be at 7pm on December 7th - to be a 1 hour meeting to provide updates and make decisions on the amount of funds to allocate

10. (Fundraiser) Mabels Labels & FlipGive

Mabels Labels - information provided by Mary in the office that this has been a school fundraising initiative. This will be removed from the school council list.

FlipGive - Tammie used to run this fundraiser but she no longer has children that attend VM. She has communicated that she will be bringing a summary of the funds raised and spent on the library rejuvenation along with two cheques to the office on Friday. There is a small amount left in the Flip give account (\$93).

Any new accounts will be started using the school council email account.

11. (Fundraiser) Do Nothing (item deferred due to timing, this event does not take place until later in the school year)

12. Library Rejuvenation Committee

Over the last year or two, a lot of money was spent on refreshing the library books. Will wait to see the overall fundraising summary from Tammie to know what money is left.

Will put out a sign up sheet at the movie night to see if there is interest in being on the committee or leading this initiative.

Will get a furniture plan through Julie's contact.

13. Gardening Committee

Two clean-ups have been held since the last meeting. Thanks to everyone who came out and helped. In addition to parents, one student (Rachel) came to help. Spring plans will be discussed at a future meeting.

14. Equity Committee

Would like to make the slogan and logo more inclusive and equitable. Susan will help out with the committee.

There is a process to follow - have to follow Board procedures/policy. Susan has started that process to find out what needs to be done and in what order.

Staff equity meeting was held today to gather teacher thoughts on equity and inclusion. The logo (among other topics) was discussed and there was agreement to look into changes

Once it gets to the point of being able to develop a new logo - Julie noted that it would be good to have full participation of students.

15. (Event) Scholastic Book Fair (November)

Books will be delivered tomorrow. Set up will be November 22. Fair is during the day on November 23 and 24. Class sign ups have already been done. There will be a Family night on the 24th during parent teacher interviews. There will also be a virtual component.

There will be another message in the next Principal's email with all of the info on dates etc.

A volunteer is needed to manage the cash on Thursday night. Adamo will do this during the school days.

Clean-up will be done on Friday morning.

Teachers will also be asked to make a wish list for future purchases - they can look at the books during the set up. They have asked that students/families don't purchase books for them directly from the sale. Credits accumulated during the sale from Scholastic will be used to purchase books later in the year.

16. (Event) Movie Night & Clothing Swap (Nov.25&26)

Posters have been put up around the community for the clothing swap. Posters for movie night will be put up in the school.

Event covered through the school council insurance.

Promoted in Friday email, would like to spread the word more widely - would like to send a small paper with info home with kids.

Mary can provide info on the number of kids in each class. Photocopying can be done in the school.

Not just a fundraiser, also a community event. There will be popcorn and canned drinks for sale as well.

Clothing swap - Allison will accept clothes next week. Can also be brought in person to the movie night.

Student council will help out - they just can't handle money.

Next meeting: is Wednesday, December 7 at 7:00pm

**Meeting adjourned at 8:32 PM**