

# 2022-2023 Vincent Massey School Council meeting

## December 7, 2022

Attendance:

**VM staff:** Julie Chouinard

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

**Members:** Caitlin Anstee, Allison Palermo, Kate Connolly

### 1. Welcome and purpose of meeting - Katie

Katie called the meeting to order and provided information regarding the purpose of the meeting. She explained that at the November meeting, the council had wanted to approve the distribution of some of the funds in its accounts to educators. However, a vote was not held because the council wanted to understand how much of the funds in school council accounts were available for spending and how much was earmarked for the library rejuvenation project.

### 2. Overview of current funds - Erinn

Movie night raised \$460.

Petty cash bank account contains \$3,554.84. A portion of the funds are needed to maintain amounts for a float and to pay for movie night expenses. The amount that can be spent from this account is **\$3,243.93**

School account contains \$8,729.92. A portion of this account is designated for maker space - \$1,000, and the library - \$4,775.43. **\$2,954.49** can be spent on other council initiatives.

In total, council has **\$6,198.42** that can be spent.

Julie noted that a project has been started to provide supplies for the maker space. Currently this was done on a trial basis. Julie was not sure whether materials had been purchased for this yet or whether materials used were already in the school. In future, educators can make suggestions for purchases and Julie approves.

A question was raised about whether council needs to approve funds spent for the maker space, however as those funds were already earmarked for that purpose in the school council account, they can be used for that purpose without additional approval.

Allison suggested that we should update parents on what the money for the maker space has been used for - for example - send pictures and an explanation as part of an upcoming Friday update. Council exec will coordinate this with Julie.

### 3. Vote on spending - Erinn

Council previously discussed how we could distribute funds to educators - by division or by staff.

Discussion took place about how much of the available funds should be allocated to educators at this time. This also included a discussion about other options for the funds such as larger items that might be needed for the school or other programming or school community events such as a year-end BBQ. Julie explained that for larger long term projects the school can identify needs to the Board and submit requests for funds. In addition, the school has access to grants for art or other programming such as luv to groove (a dance program). It was also noted that in order to raise funds for longer term projects that will span more than one year - this should be clearly indicated to donors at that time of collecting funds (such as for the library rejuvenation project).

Based on the discussion, those in attendance felt it was reasonable to proceed with allocating a large portion of the funds in the council accounts to educators. Some funds will remain to be allocated to future initiatives and there will be further fundraising activities to be held throughout the school year such as movie nights, do nothing fundraiser and a potential dance-a-thon. The current funds have been accumulated over the past couple of years and should be allocated for spending this year.

**Motion was made to allocate \$75 per educator for 59.5 educators (\$4,462.50) (Katie proposed the motion, Erinn seconded, no objections)**

4. FlipGive accounts

There are two FlipGive accounts, one that was linked to Indigo bookstores (Tammie Windsor administered) and another more general account where gift cards can be purchased for multiple different stores (Lucy Li Chun administered). It was decided to close the Indigo account so that there is not confusion between the two Flipgive accounts and since Tammie no longer has children attending VM. Lucy has agreed to continue to administer the other FlipGive account until Spring 2023 after which she would like to transition it back to school council executive.

Fundraising in the past through FlipGive has been directed to the library. Question was posed about whether council should change this given that there isn't someone to lead the library project currently. No objections were raised so going forward funds raised through the account will go to ongoing school council initiatives.

5. Roundtable

A question was raised about the Secure School event that took place recently where students had to stay in classrooms and an ambulance was called. It was asked why there wasn't communication that would go home to parents in such a case? Julie explained that not all secure school situations involve all classrooms (sometimes for example it is just one hallway in a school) and that often students would not be aware as the teacher would just close the classroom door. She suggested discussing this at the January council meeting and if parents would like communication each time she can do so (but that there is the potential that it could be too much)

A question was also asked about a post on the VM council facebook page. Concern was raised about a recent assembly and the question was posed about whether there should have been communication sent to parents in advance. Julie explained that the assembly dealt with subjects related to human rights. She held a meeting with parents that raised concerns about the assembly and there is a plan for future events. Communication will be made to parents in advance of this type of event in the future.

There was discussion about whether the council facebook page should be deleted as there is not anyone that is available to monitor posts. Julie also noted that parent concerns should be directed to her so that she can address them directly. This topic will be discussed at the January council meeting.

Meeting ended at 8:06pm. Next meeting is scheduled for January 18, 2023.