

2022-2023 Vincent Massey School Council meeting

January 25, 2022

Attendance:

VM staff: Julie Chouinard, student council representative - Rosalie Dillon, Jessica Hebb (teacher rep for student council)

Executive: Erinn Brooks, Erin Corbin, Katie Eberts

Members: Kerrie Rodier, Caitlin Anstee, Jenny Ellis

1. Meeting was called to order
2. November and December 2022 meeting minutes accepted (moved by Katie Eberts, seconded by Erinn Brooks, passed)
3. Principal's Update (presented by Julie Chouinard)
 - Update from Susan Wilson - multicultural event will be back on this year - will take place in the spring (May 4). She will need some help and coordination of money and tasks. Looking for 1 or 2 parents to attend planning meetings, purchase items from Costco, getting tablecloths (washing after), washing cutlery. Parent volunteers for the day of the event will also be needed.
Some info about the event -
 - Potluck, bring food representing your culture. Families can help themselves to food and eat together at large tables. Usually a fashion show as well.
 - Question was raised about Covid safety given there would be communal food and families eating together. Alternatives for the event could be explored for this year.
 - At the Board level, it is a strategic plan review year (done every 4 years). Public consultations are taking place - next one is on Feb 2. Details can be found on the OCDSB website.
 - School bus cancellation days - have been going well so far - reminder that if parents have driven their kids to school that pick-ups need to be on time as there are no resources to provide after school care.
 - The music program is now on Instagram.
 - Toonie Tuesday will be on Feb 2. Funds go towards the Education Foundation which VM uses. (funds clothing, other emergency funds)
 - Kinder info event will be Feb 7 at 4:30pm in the library - general information will be provided. In late May/early June there will be a more specific event for VM.
4. Student update (presented by Rosalie Dillon)
 - Student council will be doing candy grams for Valentine's day.
 - End of year BBQ - trying to determine a date (don't want to conflict with Pleasant Park's school BBQ) but will be on or near the last day of school.
 - Need to be respectful of different food preferences.
 - Will be for all students
 - Not sure yet the number of parent volunteers or funds that are needed.

- The school council can include a call for volunteers in Principal's email

5. Teacher Update (presented by Jessica Hebb)

- Craig Cardiff - virtual concert was on Jan 23
 - Will also be coming to the school to do writing workshops which will then be part of division wide concert
- Kinder division
 - Starr gymnastics workshops tomorrow.
 - Will have a sing along with Craig Cardiff when he comes to the school.
 - Would like to have money to book Scientists in the school. (cost - \$235 per class)
- Primary division
 - Blue spruce primary reading club has started.
 - Winter play day scheduled for Feb 16th.
- Junior division
 - many classes will skate at Canterbury recreation centre
 - They've created a Rubik's cube club and chess club.
 - A spelling bee is being organized. There is also a club to help kids prepare. There will be an assembly to watch the best students compete
 - Winter play day scheduled for Feb 24th
 - Requests - helmets have expired over covid - more would be needed for skating days.
- Intermediate division
 - intermurals are starting again - dodgeball is first - 2 days per week Tuesday and Friday at second recess
 - Volleyball game of students vs teachers was held
 - Also had a dance
 - Fundraising started for the end of Grade 8 festivities. Looking to do something local - ex dinner out, movie (within the community but allow students to dress up etc) Ottawa boat cruise? (Will need to check with the risk management group at the Board) Trying to keep the cost to max \$100/student.
 - Question was posed about whether the school council can provide funds for the Grade 8 class? Answer - If money is explicitly raised for a particular event - then funds can be used for that purpose. Otherwise funds raised are assumed to benefit the whole of the school. If it was clear that an event was being held to raise funds for the Grade 8 celebration, then this would be ok.
 - This division also noted that a larger projector for gym needed for movie night etc

6. French resources

Topic was raised for discussion as it was noted that resources such as french books and learning tools were needed for some classes. Some points that were noted were as follows;

- Books for Grade 1 - 6 potentially for French books (that could be sent home). (That are actual French resources and not just direct translations.)
- Julie mentioned that it needs to be a program that aligns with the board and that this would benefit a specific group - French immersion - when many in the school are not in FR immersion program
- She suggested that if council wants to fund school resources - to leave it general and the teachers could decide what best compliments what is already in the school.

7. Facebook closure
 - Current council exec does not want to moderate the current page.
 - There has been interest to keep it running so the proposal is to change the purpose and name to a Families of VM page instead.
 - Will add a message to the FB group (doesn't represent school council) and through the Principal's email.

8. Treasurer's report

No change to the school account (amount \$8,729.92).
RBC account has 3,243.93
Total 11,973.85
Note - school account includes library rejuvenation and makerspace funds of \$5,775.43.

9. Book Giveaway
 - Heather Munro has organized this event in the past. Each student can come with their class to the library and pick a book to take home.
 - She will lead in a supervisory role this year and would like to transfer knowledge to other parents to take this event over.
 - Some tasks that need to be completed -
 - Schedule needs to be created for students to visit the library.
 - Council meeting will be the night before - will help with set-up.
 - 3 parent volunteers needed to be there for the day.
 - A call for volunteers will be included in the Friday Principal's update.
 - Separate call out for books will happen if enough parent volunteers are found.

10. Movie night
 - Last one was a big success. Next one is planned for 3 March.
 - Will reach out to the student council again for their help.

11. Fundraising
 - Dance a thon - could help for Grade 8 event?
 - April time frame?
 - There are a couple of parents that have expressed interest to help with the dance a thon.
 - Student council could also help with running this.
 - Could also designate a future movie night to a specific event - like Grade 8 end of year.
 - Also discussed keeping the 'Do nothing' as a general fundraiser again this year

12. VM Merch
 - Some research was conducted and a company schoolware.ca was found
 - Would be a VM specific site through them, still some questions to be answered from the company.
 - Easy to order from.
 - May no longer include Under Armour? Company to confirm. Can get other brands from elsewhere but used to be good because they included UA.
 - This company means no bulk purchases or coordination in advance as families order when they want using the school link.

- Not a fundraiser and doesn't have to be at a specific time.
- Idea was raised that there could also be a separate logo contest. Winner gets their logo printed on shirts. Would not be through this merchandise sale or company but could do that as a bulk purchase instead. Idea was noted and will be considered in future.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.