

Vincent Massey School Council Meeting Minutes – November 15, 2023

Attendance:

VM staff: Nicholas Lafrance Lindsay Foote Christine Austin

Executive: Erinn Brooks, Erin Corbin, Katie Eberts

Members: Allison Ewacha, Allison Merz, Cheri Whitall, Cheryl Khoury, Galen Wong, Hamid Azad, Jacqueline Willmore, Tiffany Campagnolo, Tori Moore, Valerie De Franco, David Merz, Allison Palermo, Jenny Ellis, Christine Dagleish, Tori Moore Christine Austin

Item
<p>1. Welcome</p>
<p>2. Principal updates Questions about Kinder yard - someone from Board coming to inspect and monitor. Will keep trouble shooting for solutions Bus loop - City of Ottawa included for site plan approval (including tree replacement) School cash online - 67% of families have accounts Library - Laurie went to other schools to see other library rejuvenation projects. Move from traditional to learning commons. In planning phase about how to use the funds. Would like to finalize order of furniture by mid December D/w PP regarding outdoor space, not being used so much up to this point as new. Will continue to follow up with them to understand how it is being used. Quotes on sun shades/sail shades 17K 20 feet (total cost 26k) New initiatives: Creating community closet - families could visit one per week, stocked with donated items (mostly clothing). Started partnership with Lionheart (Amazon and Cobb bread - provide extras or returns). First shipment last week. (don't know what is coming each week) This past one - crayons, markers, lunch kits. Have a large stockpile of clothing - Amalia went through and separated into community closet and what is kept for the office to give out as needed. Will use the change room for this. Tight on space right now. Elevator set to be repaired within the next week. New portable has arrived - waiting for wiring and stairs to be installed (hopefully next week). New positions starting next Thurs. New class starts Nov 27. Lots of movement happening - impacts multiple classes – will be notified soon. Community closet - could potentially use collaboration with council, could use some volunteers. Megan Martin has created a lost and found process. – see community update. Has been quite effective. Progress reports out tomorrow. Parent teacher interviews the following week. (Nov 23/24) Book fair next week - parent night Thurs Large gym now open. Volleyball before school has started. Each class has 2 indoor gym times, 1 outdoor.</p>
<p>3. Teacher updates Kinder - last week, Veteran came to speak about peace and RD 2 weeks ago - Halloween parade Loving the recent snow All classes participated in inuit games workshops. Very engaged and excited. Welcomed 2 student teachers recently. Primary - EF2A, EF3A - performed at RD ceremony in FR and ASL</p>

EF1B - learning to code
Planning a fieldtrip to NAC for Feb.
December - festival of lights taking place

Junior - Inuit games - loved the workshops
Next week - hour of code workshops (international program) Accenture
Rainbow club - invited all levels this year – so many kids had to separate into two groups. 30 making buttons etc. Starting positivity campaign next week.
MacSkimming trips in Dec
Will be a winter concert - date TBD

Intermediate - black excellence club started - going to hillcrest next week
25 kid in Rainbow club – celebrate rainbow - feature members of LGBT
Tech club helped with RD ceremony
Football has ended and into VB season
Wellness Wed started (visit each class to go over mental health strategies). EX healthy eating, drinking water to feel well
Rog project - tues/thurs - support social skills mental health
Library - need volunteer Thurs 8:30-10:30

Staff update - principal practicum - equity initiative - book club - We got this. Strengthen understanding to be equitable in the classroom. Proactive vs reactive. 22 staff participating.
Chapter 1 - listening. Council takeaways – potentially share with families as well.

4. Student council updates
No one in attendance.

5. Treasurer's report

Current balances

- **Total available: \$2,983.43**
- \$1,221.15 (School account)
- \$1,762.28 (RBC petty cash account)
- Reserved for educators/divisions: \$2,000 (\$400 per division) (\$2,500 already spent last year)
- Reserved for library: \$4,775.43 (admin to spend as appropriate)
- Reserved for maker space: \$1,000 (not yet planned)

Movie night coming up as fundraiser.

6. Event: Scholastic Book Fair + Book Exchange

See timing above.

Book exchange - happens normally Thurs before March break. Get leftover books from Rockcliffe park book sale. 4-5 boxes of books for GR 5-8 approx.

Need to count the books available in the library.

Books being stored in the library - request that whatever isn't taken by students, that the remainder are donated. For future years, could be harder to collect ~750 books each year.

Will also do a call up leading to the date to collect further books. See what this looks like in terms of continuing for future.

Another option could be an OPL session (sign up for cards, provide info on library services) (OPL has done this in the past, can bring forms to apply for cards, and bring the cards to the school – did this pre covid, not sure if running again.)

7. Event: Holiday shopping

-Confirm if this is happening and leads

Val - has discussed with Erin – not enough time to organize this well for the first year. Ideas on how

Classroom to do craft - go to gym and get something for their parent.

Plan ahead for next year to be able to pre-plan.

Person at Glen Ogilvie that could help/provide info - theirs is all gift of giving

In the past a class helped to organize and used as learning experience.

Proceeds were donated (CHEO)

Could move this to April instead (EID, Easter, Passover)

Classroom visits - teacher involvement - how should that be organized.

Lindsay could ask staff about who might be interested in participating and getting feedback. Can do at the next staff meeting.

Others volunteered to help (Tori, Katie)

8. Event: Movie night - January 19, 2024

-Call for volunteers -

Offer two movies - one for younger kids, one for older using both gyms.

Will reach out to Mr McKeen and student council for volunteers.

Popcorn sales –maybe council popcorn rather than getting some from parent council.

Consider whether presales of pizza as well.

Poll for movie - kids vote.

9. Outdoor classroom

See costs outlined above. Need to think about fundraising events.

10. Roundtable

Hillcrest has started an Arabic conversation group. Tues mornings. Looking for beginner and native speakers. Will pass along the info to Allison who had volunteered to do some work on outreach. Christine would be interested to be involved.

Gr 8 leaving trip - approval to start fundraising. First activity is to sell maple syrup.

Not sure yet if it will be an overnight or day trip.

Would also like to do a community event - will be able to use the football jerseys. Also looking to do a bottle drive.

Event to take place in May.

Parent conference - info kiosks, lots of organizations provide support to families. Could choose which workshops - all were interesting.

Education foundation kiosk - help schools with funding for food and clothing. Can't take donations themselves. Council communications, could have a feature - what they do and services they offer.

Keynote speaker - potential to come to the school – really connected. He is already booked to come to the school. (in process) topic ex - building resilience, new ways to make connections with your kids

End meeting

Next meeting is January 17 @ 6:30pm (virtual)