

2018-2019 Vincent Massey School Council Meeting #1

Wednesday, September 19, 2018

Attendance:

2017-18 Executive Members: Kate Connolly, Jennifer Ellis, Kerrie Rodier

Parents: Sam Kazak, Christina Moffatt, Marlene Doyle, Tammis Winsor, Daniel Zhuravel, Chrstine Dalglish, Heather Munro, Charmaine Mentlak, Cecile Beaurepaire, Cheryl Khoury, SeyranBahreamand, Ali Azizi, Anne Marie Thompson

Staff: Jackie Ough (DDS), Trisha Pemberton (grade 7), Kateri Deschenes (Principal), Micheline Grondin (Acting VP)

Call to Order at 6:09 pm

Welcome and Introductions – attendees did a round table to introduce themselves.

Approval of tonight's agenda – motion to approve: Charmaine; seconded: Sam

Approval of minutes from June 13 meeting - motion to approve: Kate; seconded: Charmaine

Introduction of VM School Council and Overview of Council Initiatives for 2018-19 –

Kate gave a brief overview of the annual initiatives that are anticipated for this school year

- a. *Shawarma Night – at the meet the teacher night*
- b. *Gardening – committee takes care of the garden*
- c. *Movie Nights – three times a year we show movies in the gym*
- d. *Boot Sale – October. Council sells used boots and coats at a low cost for VM families and the community*
- e. *Scholastic Book Fair - November*
- f. *Do Nothing Fundraiser – our annual request for parent donations*
- g. *Book Giveaway (Formerly known as Book Exchange)- Council collects and redistributes used books to VM families*
- h. *Multicultural dinner – annual event in spring with a Council liaison*
- i. *Grant applications – could use parent volunteers who can research and write grants*

Election of New Executive Committee for 2018-19

Kate Connolly and Jennifer Ellis were acclaimed into the co-chair positions.

Kerrie Rodier was acclaimed into the secretary position.

Cecile Beaurepaire as acclaimed into the treasurer position.

Sam Kazak expressed interest in serving as Fundraising Chair, with interest in shadowing the co chair positions. He was acclaimed into the fundraising chair position.

Teacher reports

Jackie Ough – Juniors

- Settling into sports teams
- Jackie is responsible for purchasing school jerseys – with VM colours rather than just pinnies.
- Kerrie – looking for funding for this? School council willing to consider providing if we receive more info.
- Ordering about 15 to 20 size appropriate for juniors. Will contact the companies for quotes.
- Cheryl – jerseys vs pinnies: Jerseys require washing. Charmaine – the jerseys do have a better appearance on par with other schools.
- Jackie – it's the coaches responsibility to wash the jerseys.

Trisha Pemberton - Intermediate

Composting and recycling is back underway. Also a tower garden incorporated into the school. Kids will be responsible for helping to grow veggies. Not certain yet where veggies will be directed.

DPA (daily physical activity) equipment required – basketballs, soccer balls, etc. Resources get depleted easily. \$300 for 5 basketballs, 12 footballs and 6 soccer balls. This is an intermediate purchase, but gets used by multiple levels of grades.

Questions for teachers

Q: Do we have volleyball programs here?

A: Yes – there are different programs. Volleyball is usually in January. We follow the sports seasons that the school board runs. We actually have 2 teams for 7/8 volleyball (Kateri)

Q: Robotics and programming – do we have programs for this?

A: There was a programming and robotics club last year. Sometimes when we have a parent, volunteer or staff member who has a skill and interest, we will start a club. Clubs are announced over morning announcements.

Q: Are we going to get regular updates from all divisions at meetings?

A: Yes, that is the intent. The 4 divisions will update the teacher representatives.

Follow up not: If the person from the division is looking for funding, they should come because we will often have questions.

Q: State of the kinder yard – the grass yard and hill. Can we have an update?

A: This may fall to PrincipatI and Mr. Field (Custodian) to provide an update for next meeting.

Principal and Vice-Principal Reports

Kateri Deschenes

- Looking forward to her second year at VM. Our VP is away right now. Mme Grondin is with us for now; she knows the school well.
- Just under 700 students in the school. Class size is good. Our largest size class is 24; primary level under 20.
- Lights in hall have been changed. It's much brighter.

- Areas affected by frozen pipes last year – 1 class and library are having repairs done. Library ready for use by end of next week. New heating and cooling units at end of October. We will have temporary ones.
- Elevator is broken at present. It is old and difficult to repair. Due for replacement next summer. They are working on repairs.
- Sports are up and running. Recycling and composting up and running.

Questions for Principal and Vice-Principal

Q: Paper and plastic both recycled? A: Yes.

Q: Heating and cooling new units? A: Little room outside the library – one of the heating units there froze last year. Part of school is on the boiler and some sections are not and their heaters do not have a long life cycle.

Q: Any upgrades to the bathroom? Girls bathrooms didn't have locks on the stalls. Has this been fixed? Boys bathroom too. Worth having Mr. Fields check all stalls. A: Kateri to check on this.

Q: anticipated class changes or staffing changes? A: Not sure until a few days from now, but not expected. Primary has a hard cap.

Q: Computer lab at VM? What happened to it? A: Became a classroom a few years ago. Most schools in the board no longer have a computer lab. In each class "tech tubs": ipads or chrome books. The "cow"(Cart on wheels) with 15 computers on it upstairs for intermediates. Teachers can sign up for this.

Q: IT strategy for the year? Need for more chrome books or ipads? A: They need to start replacing some due to life cycle concerns. Chrome books especially.

Q: Who pays for this? A: Not certain for original ones – grants, etc. Ministry provided some things like projectors.

Q: Is the school going toward PC or apple? A: They are moving away from apple and toward Chrome books.

Q: Can kids sign in with emails? A: Many students sign in for Google classroom. Some classes are different depending on grade level. Check in with the teacher. Not consistent in how Google classroom gets used. Each teacher is different depending on comfort level.

Q: Dojo app? Was it taken away? It was for monitoring point systems. A: We did not use this at VM.

Q: Is there a standard of chrome books per class? Board standard? A: Tech tubs have 5 devices each. Trying to have as many as possible. Classes do share tech tubs if another class isn't using it.

Q: Smart boards? A: All classes have projectors but not smart boards.

Q: Are there some students affected by elevator not working. A: Yes.

Cheryl expressed concern that the elevator and the front disabled access to the front door are not currently working, as VM is then not properly accessible.

Kateri noted that the custodian had placed work orders for this and followed up. The Superintendent is aware.

Cheryl put forward a motion that Council write a letter to the Superintendent about this issue. Charmaine seconded the motion.

Cheryl will prepare the letter and Kate and Kerrie will sign. It will be sent out within 7 days.

Further question about when elevator broke – it was the end of summer.

Q: Are we under review this year- accommodation review. A: Still on hold for now.

Q: Friday update – will it be happening ? A:Yes. One test email was sent last week. Micheline will re export the list.

Treasurer's report

Current Balance \$1,043.84

Library Rejuvenation project – Tammie

Kateri provided an update about the sensory room that will be going into the room connected to the library. VM has one sensory room upstairs and it's very busy. It is mostly for younger students. We need another room and this is the only available space. A sensory room allows students to go for a scheduled break to decompress. It has items in it such as a sandbox, balls, mat, chalkboard, carpet. The timeline on this is quick – VM had hoped to have it ready for beginning of school year. It needs to be cleared out. This is independent of library project.

- At our June meeting this project came up. Books need replacing, library old, not very attractive.
- Tammie reached out to Elliott Poole, VM's librarian, and he's very enthusiastic.
- Elliott had a lot of ideas based on other schools and his training – comfy furniture, paint, lots of new books, 3D printer.
- Lots of schools in Ottawa have done this so we can reach out to them.
- We will have to come up with a budget. How are we funding this?
- We can apply for grants, we'll have to do specific funding fundraising for this project.
- Can we reach out to schools for library science and admin schools?
- We need a committee – Elliott wants to be involved. We need kids on the committee.
 - Cecile, Heather, Sam, Kerrie expressed interest.
 - Tammie will put a call out – Friday Update, website,
 - Kateri – would you like staff to be advised?
 - Cheryl – dedicate a wall in library to ideas from kids?
 - Kateri – need to consider how much the kids are going to the library.
 - Sam - for kids- what they want for the library (Sam)

School board has painters.

Positive People Project Update – Heather

- Has not received an update from students. We are awaiting a teacher coordinator. This is on hold for now.

Arts Express Extra-Curricular Programs for 2018-2019 Update – Kerrie

Kerrie to connect with Arts Express and proceed as per our discussion in June. Programming should begin in October.

Grants – Kate

This will remain a standing item. We need parent volunteers to research and apply for grants. We also need to know more about teacher interests and needs. Cheryl has a grant list to share

Other business and ideas

Updating the bulletin board for VM council – Kerrie to send meeting minutes and agendas to Charmaine, who will post them on board. Sam to also assist with board updates.

Meet the Staff and Shawarma Night

- Cheryl noted meet the staff was never a council initiative; it is school led. Council was asked to help five years ago. Parents were there to help order, count money. As a reminder for next year, it is for the school to initiate.
- Kateri noted that there will be a bake sale at meet the staff night. This was initiated by VM staff.
- Kate will be at shawarma night to promote the school council

Web site –

- Kerrie asked why the council website has been pasted onto the VM site without warning. We cannot update it and the link to the current council site makes it look out of date.
- Kateri and Micheline do not know why this occurred.
- Kerrie send the information to Micheline with website link.
- Kerrie also seeking help with a redesign and regular updating of the council website. Two volunteers via facebook group. Sam also willing to help with website.

Boot Sale Night and Movie Night

- Christine – boot night flagged that it is listed as different than movie night. They should be the same.
- Christine needs contact from Kateri for Saturday school. Will promote the Saturday morning in community.
- Remainder gets taken to boomerang kids and donated. Anne Marie recommended sending donations to the Charles Hulse public school clothing cupboard.

Garden Committee

Charmaine sends her thanks to the committee – Daniel, Elaine, Mark, Cheryl, Christine. Garden Committee needs help for putting garden to bed. This will be done on October 20 to coincide with the Saturday of the boot sale.

Adjournment 8:02.

Adjournment by 8:00 p.m. latest