# April 17 – School Council Meeting

Attendance:

VM Staff: Kateri Deschenes, Principal, Kelly Haslam, VP, Justin Rajala, Junior Division, Donna Burns, Primary Division

Executive: Kate Connolly, Jennifer Ellis, Cecile Beaurepaire, Kerrie Rodier

Members: Josie Sirna, Anne Marie Thompson, Charmaine Mentlak, Heather Munro, Daniil Zhuravel, Tammie Winsor, Sam Kazak, Cheryl Khoury, Chrystal Beckett

Call to order 6:05 and Introductions.

## Agenda and Minutes

Items added:

* Bike Racks, as per Cheryl’s request
* Trees, per Kate’s request

Agenda approved

Motion to approve minutes from February deferred to end of meeting

## Teacher updates

Primary – Donna Burns

* Author visit – Cindy Ross to visit Kinder and Primary divisions
* Multicultural dinner coming up – fashion show and art show
* Jump Rope for Heart – May 6
* Science workshops from U of O – May 14th Different workshop depending on grade – forces and structures, wild world, pulley power.
* April 1st – piano concert for the 14th year. Donna thanks the council for the funding for new piano books.

Kinder – Justin Rajala

* Scientists in the schools – April 30-May 6. Thanks to council for funding for this initiative.
* Caterpillars/Butterflies for English homerooms and Eggs/chicks for French homerooms this spring
* Author visiting kinder classes in April and May
* Final kinder and Perley visits taking place soon
* May 29 – info night for next year’s kinders

Junior – Justin Rajala

* Recent Slam poetry workshop was a huge success
* Right to play assembly this week – several junior students will be representatives at school. Organizing games at end of year fun day to raise awareness of developing countries
* Year end trip to Upper Canada Village – June 10 (gr. 4)
* French festival for juniors – music, food and cinema promoting Franco Ontarian culture in May
* Luv 2 Groove workshop coming up in May. Parent presentation May 3 at 1:15.
* Spring Extravaganza April 24th
* Grade 6 EQAO dates – 22 to 27 May
* Junior Girls basketball and Junior boys basketball taking place
* Track and field starting up soon. Choose students for meet on May 31.

Intermediate- Justin Rajala

* Permission forms for end of year trip due this week. Fundraisers coming up – bake sale and lemonade sale
* Spring dance Friday April 26th.
* Gr 7 sports day at Carleton
* Work at Russell Manor building squirrel fences.
* Looking for donations of toilet paper and paper towel rolls. Donate Room 219
* Grade 7 orientation day – details to follow
* Mr. McKean’s group to do mentoring at Russell heights
* Grade 7 immunization May 2-3 – Hepatitis B and HPV.

## Questions for Teachers:

Tammie – question about Spring Extravaganza – concern over why it was approved when other Library fundraisers were not.

Discussion about Spring Extravaganza and communication between council, administration and teachers followed:

* Pre meeting discussion
* Require better coordination between council and school about activities that will take place this year.
* Spring Extravaganza – spearheaded by Anousha Appanah and Kim Shiau. Party of the Entrepreneurial Adventures program. The students have to create a business plan to create a fundraiser for a charity they want to support. Students chose the David Suzuki foundation. Grade 4 (Rajala/Shiau) and Grade 5/6 gifted (Appanah). Spring Extravaganza is the event the kids came up with – combined craft and bake sale along with a few other activities.

Kate – Council members feeling frustration because this is very similar to what Sam had proposed, but it didn’t go anywhere

Jennifer – challenge is that teachers and parents are not aware of what’s going on. Administration was not serving as bridge between groups

Heather – should we be presenting at meetings for staff to raise awareness of what we are doing?

Cheryl – when we had reps from each division it helped

Kate – proposes sharing of Council minutes with staff

Kelly – this was student driven and students presented and we received proposal in February from students

Tammie – was there not a question of merging the ideas? Concern that there is not support for the school council initiatives that the classroom initiatives receive. Concern is that Sam raised these ideas in the fall.

Sam – progressed with ideas not realizing that a lot of similar initiatives exist. Concern about proper communication.

Jennifer – Proposes a structured relationship with teachers, relying on administration for communication and support. Breakdowns in communication have occurred this year with administrative transitions.

Sam – It would be helpful if Council could get information earlier in the year about upcoming events

Justin – Justin – Potential opportunity for collaboration. Entrepreneurial Adventures event is more involved this year than last. Let teachers know early in year if we’d like to partner with them to fundraise and do activities.

Kelly – Suggests planning meeting in June

Cheryl – likes idea of council having a plan in September. Demoralizing when parents have ideas for initiatives that these don’t come to fruition.

Dan – plan for meeting – publish it elsewhere

Kerrie – add to agenda for May meeting – how to communicate and post calendar of events

## Principal and Vice Principal Updates

Kateri

* Staffing for next year. Hoping people will register shortly.
* Grade 7 orientation June 11
* Student and parent session
* School learning plan – focus on developing mental math skills and sharing theory with others

Kelly

* School learning survey – “Our School” grade 4-8. Anonymous, voluntary and students can opt out. Assessment of sense of student safety. Use for anti-bullying, and development of a positive school climate

## Questions for Principal and VP

* Q: Who sees results of school survey? A: School info accessible through VM. Can also access board information through board website.
* Q: Violence at Vincent Massey? A: For next meeting Kelly to review last survey. Parent survey results from last year?
* Q: Safe and Caring community – do we have a parent representative on this? Terms of reference – is a parent rep required? A: To discuss at next meeting.
* Q: Staffing issues for next year – will the intermediate schedules be improved upon this year. Strange 20 minute slots at the end of day for classes this year. Can it mimic a HS setting more? Schedule this year is very scattered.
* A: Challenge is ministry time requirements. E.g. math must always be an hour. Time requirements for different levels is different, but some staff teach across divisions. It’s a challenge to divide the required ministry instructional minutes up into workable periods. (Kateri)
* Q:How many teacher contacts per student A: 5 rotations

Add to agenda – yard maintenance – grounds

## Treasurer Report

* Balance 2701.11 RBC account
* Balance school account unknown
* Grants – PRO grant $990

Council initiatives s

* **Movie night** is next Friday – posters are up. Kate’s last time doing movie night. We have sufficient volunteers.
* **Multicultural dinner** – Thursday, May 2nd. Parent Council asked to help fund some items that are needed. Volunteers required to help during and after the event to help monitor the classrooms. Forms went home this week. What is needed – napkins, plates, juice boxes. $200 required.
* Motion for $200 to Anne Marie for funding. Cheryl – motion Kerrie – seconded. Motion carried
* Some clean up help required with table cloth laundry, etc.
* Cheryl – why still paper forms for this and why not have a Google docs form for this?
* Kelly open to using Google forms

**Dance a thon and Fun Fair** – for a future year.

## Library Rejuvenation

* $3293 raised through the fundraiser
* Thanks to Mary for her support. Does the money go to the school account or the school council account? All tax receipts and spreadsheet are done.
* April 2nd – meeting on how the money will be spent – books or furniture? Elliot also has $4,000 in the school account. So, we have $7,000 to spend this year on furniture and books.
* Art for the library.
* PRO grant $990 to spend before end of year on parent and student initiative.
* Board resource to be assigned to us to assist in project – we need a teacher assigned to this. We are waiting for Kateri to liaise with board resource to find out more about teacher’s role. Jennifer and Tammie reminded Kateri of the timeline for this communication – there has already been a delay of several weeks and request must come from the Principal.
* Heather willing to meet to discuss ideas. We do have a former VM teacher who is willing to assist for a fee as well.
* Jennifer – if by next Wednesday we have no answer from art support teacher, we will move to plan B - do a June council meeting that will be a parent and child activity for art creation.
* Clothing rack idea at library entrance raised at rejuvenation meeting. It was determined it would not be there.
* $10K grant submission to Best Buy. Canada Post grant was not submitted due to time restraints.
* Promotion of the FlipGive promotion is working well. Library committee to allow funds to keep growing.
* Jen – link up with Cecile so that we account for the flip give money.

## Traffic Safety committee

* Sam reported back – met with Councillor. Going to put up a camera for traffic study at Haig, Edgecombe and at Russell (no left turn).
* Working on improving snow removal
* Unlikely we will get another crossing guard. Possible Smyth speed limit will be raised to 60km/h.

## Open Gym Initiative

* Daniil spoke about this initiative
* Similar initiatives have been run in Ottawa in the past. If we want this to proceed, we need someone to write up a proposal for this
* Question of permission and waivers is still to be determined
  + there is possibly another sports team using the gym at this time
  + we need a potential schedule and then we can consider this

# Bike racks

Cheryl spoke to this issue.

* Can these be moved temporarily so they are not in a giant puddle?
* Baseball diamond or along sidewalk of Edgecombe, or in front of school?
* Council asked administration to take two weeks to propose options

## Trees

* Kate received a message from a VM parent about sick tree in kinder yard. Who looks after these? Can parents plant trees? What is process.
* Cheryl – council has purchased and planted trees in the past.
* Jen – forward the email to admin – safety concern?

# Refuse to Lose

* award to a student or teacher
* We solicit nominations from students and staff. We need nominations for the next two weeks. Prior to the next meeting.

**Adjournment** at 8:06