## 2018-2019 Vincent Massey School Council Meeting #5

## Wednesday, February 20, 2019

#### Attendance:

**VM Staff:** Kateri Deschenes (Principal), Kelly Haslam (Vice Principal) Laurel Stathan (Teacher)

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

**Members**: Christine Dalgleish, Heather Munro, Daniil Zhuravel, Tammie Windsor, Christina Moffatt, Charmaine Johnson-Mentlak, Galen Wong, Anne-Marie Thompson, Chrystal Beckett, Allison Klus-Palermo, Josie Sirna, Sam Kazak

**Call to Order** at 6:02 pm.

**Motion to approve** minutes and agenda – motion made by Kate, seconded by Kelly

### Teacher Updates and Questions for teachers

Laurel Stathan – EF 5/6

**Kinder**:

* March 8 Yaki concert – movie and popcorn day
* Perley visits – 2nd visits taking place.
* Elmvale OPL visits taking place

**Junior Update**:

* Triple ball tournaments taking place
* Skating trip for Junior Classes
* Winter fun day Feb. 14
* Basketball club starting this week
* Readers and writers club shortly
* Grade 4 Museum of Nature trip

**Intermediate Update:**

* R8A is starting a civic engagement project with the residents of Russell Manor.
* This is an opportunity for students to make a difference and to learn from the experiences of the residents.

**General:**

* Feb. 22nd is Superhero day
* Feb. 27th – pink shirt day – bullying awareness

### Principal and Vice-Principal Updates and Questions for Principal and Vice-Principal

#### VP Update

Staffing – have filled some of the remaining vacancies. Learning Support Teacher position filled, portfolio redistributed between Mrs. Austin and Mr. Garrick (incoming).

Empower training – Christine Austin now training on Grade 2-5 training as well and has assumed the program that Kim Blanche used to take care of. No gap in training now. Empower is a strictly regulated reading program.

LTO position for Kim Sparks’ afternoon position

EAs – the ones hired have signing ability through ASL.

Library is booked for the book exchange, notice sent out to the teachers. They have been signing up for times to bring students to library.

Parking lot safety – with snow, less space on streets. More impatience amongst parents. Need to communicate this to parents. Parents stopping inappropriately. Kelly will continue to put the Kiss and Ride protocol in the Friday Update. Kelly and Kateri concerned about this as are staff working at Kiss and Ride.

PD Day Friday – School learning plan. Focus on math- building automaticity with math strategies that students use. “Math talks” –a collaborative and student-centred (teacher facilitated) technique for building math thinking and exposure to a variety of math strategies. The purpose is to deepen and extend mathematical understanding working toward students questioning and explaining thinking. The focus is on student thinking (not student answers) where students explain thought processes, students support and respectfully challenge one another, facilitated by teacher.

#### Questions and Answers:

Q – How do we share contact teacher info for new support teachers with parents who are not here?

A- Start with classroom teacher – Kelly.

*Snow day Parking lot issues:*

Jennifer- should we have an alternate drop off on snow days?

Kelly – we can certainly look into this to bring people in through the back

Allison – have we considered having cars stay on Haig and kids walk in?

Cecile – not a lot of space on Haig

Heather – we are trying to reduce traffic on Haig

Christine – only one accessible spot in the lot and the same truck is in it all the time. Is it possible to get another spot. Kelly – will look into this.

Allison – Q about clothing cupboard. What is it?

1. Kateri. It’s a small room in the office where they keep extras of pants and clothing. Could use some donations. Christine always donates remainders from Boot Sale. Charmaine – leftovers from lost and found.

Allison – if we could have some kind of community cupboard – looking into how to set this up. Even just a rack of clothing.

Christina – Buy Nothing Groups on Facebook

Kerrie – Charles Hulse PS has one.

Heather- Hawthorne also has one.

Kateri – space at VM is an issue.

Kate – think about this and present to us in April?

Cecile – has seen twice yearly neighbourhood swaps take place elsewhere with success

Council members commented to Kelly that they appreciate the detailed Friday update.

#### Principal Update – Kateri

**Kindergarten registration**

We had a successful Kindergarten info evening. More than 20 families attended and Kindergarten students are being registered. We are accepting registrations any time but we are encouraging earlier than later as staffing for next year starts now and we receive staffing according to the number of students we are expecting next year.

**Immunizations**

We have a handful of students who are not up to date with Immunizations or the Ottawa Public Health has not received their up to date information. The families have been notified in November. If Ottawa Public Health does not have their up to date information, suspensions begins on February 20. Ottawa Public Health informs us of who are not able to attend school. Public Health informs us daily of students remaining on the list.

**Report Cards and IEPs**

Term 1 report cards were sent home on February 14 and some term 2 Individual Education Plan (IEP) were sent with report cards others will be sent home by February 25th.

Friday February 22  Grad Photos and Super Heroes Day

Tuesday February 26 Toonie Tuesday

Wednesday February 27 Pink Shirt Day and Intermediate Winter Activity Day (Ski-Snowboarding-Tubing)

Monday March 4th and Tuesday March 5th Dental Screening JK, SK, Grade 2

Wednesday March 6 Parents sorting books for Book Exchange 6:00 to 8:00

Book Exchange Thursday March 7

March 11 to March 15 March Break

April 17 School Council Meeting Wednesday

#### Questions and Answers

Q; Josie – Supply teacher in Grade 7 – status

A: Kateri- so far a consistent person has been replacing her.

Josie – some homeroom functions are not taking place, like morning announcements. When announcements do come home they are from Mme Lalonde and not the supply teacher.

Jennifer – how long for substitute?

Josie – since December – prior to that in and out.

Jennifer – time frame for how long a class goes without a long term substitute

Kateri – will hire an LTO if they know it will be 5 weeks. Not a lot of LTOs in French.

Christina – report cards – unclear who is doing them

Kateri – Mme Lalonde did cards as she was there most of term. Used feedback from supply.

*Follow ups on questions to Superintendent*

-We will submit them to her in writing and ask her to answer them.

Kate – council should draft a single email. Kate will send on behalf of council if a parent will take lead to draft message.

Jennifer – standing issue – if people want issues brought forward.

### Treasurer’s Report

**Funds raised:**

Boomerang Kids $39.30

Samko and Miko $127. 54

PIP funding

Total RBC account $1684.11

School account - Do Nothing $1,585

**$3270 total**

$990 PRO grant is in addition to this.

**Wish Lists**

We requested wish lists in the fall, and have re-requested. We have not received anything.

Kateri – Kinder would like funding for Scientists in the Schools.

**Motion made by Kate**: Each division will have a budget of up to $400 for wish list to be approved by council

Seconded by Tammie

Motion carried.

Kateri to submit each division’s wish list by March 6 book sorting.

### Council Initiative Updates

**Book exchange**

* Sorting day is March 6.
* March 7th will be the book exchange day. Open until 3:30.
* Heather could use some assistance at book sorting and during March 7, and for book pack up day.
* In past years we have sometimes donated to other lower income schools.
* Put some remaining books on trolleys in front hallway.
* Junior and intermediate books – 320 chapter books and novels. 362 kids in Junior and Intermediate divisions.
* Book collection bins are out.
* We have $200 reserved for purchasing books if needed.
* Encourage teachers to get their classes signed up.

**Movie Night**-

* This Friday Feb. 22. Good for volunteers, movie and equipment set up.
* Kate’s last year running movie night. Someone else can pick it up in future.

**Dance A Thon-** Still to discuss with admin - defer

**Fun Fair** – still to discuss with admin - defer

### Library Rejuvenation Update - Tammie

* Submitted Indigo Love of Reading Grant Feb. 8. Huge job. Our average household income is quite high compared to previous winners. However, the application info is great and will be used for other things.
* Canada Post grant application March 1-April 1 – max $5K and they do fund school libraries
* School Cash Online – flyers have gone out prior to school cash online list
* DYK on council FB page about library starting tomorrow to encourage fundraising.
* How do we do the money collection – can school hold all funds in safe until we can come count? If not, we need to know process for collection
* Grade 8 Legacy project – donate books to library and a project with sports balls.
* Registry of books through Chapters. Might be easier to just have parents make a donation towards books.
* Alta Vista Public Library – doing a huge clear out. They are open to donating to us. However, we want to make sure we don’t have a “book dump”. Elliott is going to work with Alta Vista OPL.
* Library to be painting light blue over March Break. Some clear out has occurred.
* Art project for murals – teacher heading this up is on leave. Looking to hire an artist to give lead – Tammie exploring the leads for this. We want to ensure kids are involved.
* $990 PRO grant – can be used towards mural painting.
* Flyers to give out at movie night

### Traffic Safety Committee Update – Christine

* Have met with Jean Cloutier – have date to meet with him in next few weeks.
* Contacted CEO of Ottawa Safety Council.
* In touch with parents with schools that have successfully gotten a second crossing guard.
* Our crossing guard noted that ours is a dangerous intersection.
* Still VM parents that are causing a lot of these problems.
* Would like to have no turns at intersection of Haig and Smyth
* Want parents to behave more safely at this intersection. Report to 311 each time there is a problem. Christine to confirm if it’s 311 or police.

### Open Gym initiative – Dan

* Would like to have open gym hours maybe 3 times a week after school for kids to have an opportunity to come to school with parents. Idea to do the same as city facilities do – charge $1 to $2 for access to come and play pick up sports.
* Not sure how doable this is for access. Parents could staff and register kids.
* Kateri – right after school is an issue – our teams are using the gym after school for practice. It depends on the sports season. Arts Express is using it one day a week too.
* Evening hours could be an option. Would have to pay community use of schools fees? If it is run by school, must we pay? Kateri – we would have to book ahead of time.
* Liability is an issue – parents will have to remain with kids.
* Kate – how do we move forward on this – what is the information we need?
* Kateri – council initiative – have all details in June. Confirm day.
* Put together rough plan for April meeting – Charmaine, Kate, Dan

### Bike Area/path for walkers along the parking lot

* Cheryl had raised this issue – kids can’t get over the mountain of snow to enter the school yard. A snow removal issue.
* Ask Kate for email detail
* If we move the fence – changes access to baseball diamond. There might be issues with this fence serving as barrier for pick ups. Might be an important safety email.
* Discuss at April meeting.

### Other Business

* Note – no meeting in March. Next meeting is in April.
* Chrystal: C18 bus is still delayed – they are getting to school late. Chrystal.
* Kelly – recommend using the OSTA report form.
* Kate – post link to form on FB.

**Adjournment at 7:48**

## Appendix 1

**Received from Kateri Deschenes in March 2019:**

Here are the most recent wish list for each division:

Kindergarten $400 towards Scientists in the School

Primary  $400 towards Levelled Literacy Books

Junior $400 to help cover the cost of Hip Hop dance

Intermediate $400 to help cover the cost of Guided Reading Novels

On behalf of each division thank you very much for helping with these.