## 2018-2019 Vincent Massey School Council Meeting #3

## Wednesday, November 21, 2018

##### Attendance

**Staff**: Denis Delorme (acting Principal), Robin Small (VP), Donna Burns (Primary Division), Marina Deere (Intermediate Division)

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

**Parents**: Christina Moffatt, Heather Munro, Christine Dalgleish, Cheri Whitall, Chrystal Beckett, Daniil Zhuravel, Anne-Marie Thompson, Charmaine Mentlak, Cheryl Khoury, Sam Kazak, Josie Sirna, Agata Hawrylak

Call to Order - 6:05

**Approval of tonight’s agenda** – approved, with addition of two items: Samko and Miko Fundraiser and OCASC

**Approval of minutes from October meeting** - approved

**Teacher Reports and Questions for Teachers**

Primary Division – Donna Burns

* Dec. 14 Festival of lights will take place – learning about different celebrations around the world
* Dec. 18 Toy sale to benefit CHEO – leadership opportunity for Grade 3s. Donate gently used items in to school. Looking for parent volunteers for this event.
* Dec. 19 Holiday concert
* Dec. 21 – celebrate red, green and tinsel day

Intermediate - Marina Deere

* Grade 8 Orchestra and Glee club trips recently
* Volleyball has started for division – teams and open gym
* Leadership group run by Ms. Swail planning a cake walk for end December where kids can bid on cakes. Money raised goes to the WE organization.
* Student Council – bake sale fundraiser upcoming in December/January
* Grade 8 year-end trip to Kingston being booked

Questions:

Q: Cheryl – reiterated that it would be nice to have reports from each division as well as the DHH (Deaf and Hard of Hearing) groups.

A: Robin – heavy updates in Friday Update from both Junior Division and DHH recently. VM DHH in December will be hosting a meeting with other classes across the board to discuss collaboration. Meeting to be hosted here at VM.

**Principal and Vice-Principal Reports and Questions for Principal and Vice-Principal**

*Principal Report -Denis Delorme*

* It is now official – Denis will be at VM until December 21. Then there will be a change, which will be communicated to parents.
* Thanked the teachers for their attendance tonight.
* Has been able to make a change for the bus route that was causing timing challenges – thanks to Chrystal for bringing it to administration’s attention and for her follow up
* Thanks to Cheryl and council for the letter to the board with regard to the elevator. Elevator is now fixed. Front door disabled access button now working. Bathroom locks are now fixed.
* Parents have a lot of influence – send letters to board where required.
* There are a lot of sports taking place at VM right now.
* Things had been very rough at VM – Mr. D. has been making the rounds and has sent many kids home when there are behavioural issues. Has seen a lot of improvement since the first few weeks he was here.
* Wish list for each division have been created. School was able to purchase many of them. Presenting the remaining items to council. (See note later for wish list items)
* Library – will have proper heat and air conditioning now.

Question from Denis:

* Do parents feel that 15 minutes is enough time for kids to eat? Tracking behaviour. Infractions happen much more frequently in the afternoon. It seems to be in the last 10 minutes of break. Would like to explore extending eating period during the second lunch to 20 or 25 minutes. Trade-off is less outside time. There are 20 minute blocks of DPA for kids on days when they do not have phys ed.

Q: Jennifer – Parents would welcome a review – this has been brought up for several years. Would like to ensure that parents are included in review. Is it better for kids to go outside first then eat?

A: Robin – has looked into this and there are pros and cons.

Donna – in primary division have asked kids to be quiet for their first 5 minutes to encourage eating. Many teachers also give some flexibility at the end of the eating period to allow kids to finish up.

Q: Daniil – why are the teachers not in each class during eating time?

A: Some teachers must have lunch break and prepare for outdoor yard duty.

Q: Daniil – question about elevator use.

A: Denis – children are not allowed to use elevator without adults.

Q:Josie – number of duty teachers out at recess?

A:Robin – 9 total across 3 yards, plus EAs.

Jennifer noted that standing reports from Principal and VP bring issues up to council where we can engage and provide support as required would be helpful. Christine commented with regard to the elevator issue that parents could have written that letter 12 months ago had we known. If the administration will keep parents in the loop, we can write letters as required.

Wish list items submitted to Council as follows:

*Kinder Division*

Scientists in the Classroom - $800.00

*Primary Division*

Story Jumper Online $200.00

Levelled Literacy Books $ 400.00

*Junior Division*

Hip Hop Lessons $1800.00

*Intermediate Division*

White board 4x8; 4x6 $485.00

Council sought some clarifications regarding wish list.

Q: Kate – if Council doesn’t fund these things do they not happen entirely?

A: In most cases it would be helpful to have some funding to defray costs.

Q: Charmaine – why doesn’t the school fund literacy books?

A: Denis – this is additional funding. They have some.

Donna – French teachers in particular need more resources. Marina – EFI teachers spend a lot of time translating resources from English to French because they don’t exist.

Q: Denis – how does council feel when we get a request to charge kids $2 to participate in extras, such as the Luv to Groove hip hop lessons.

A: Parents do not have concerns about this.

VP report – Robin Small

* Third week back; happy to be back at VM.
* Been working hard on the school website – there is now a calendar on the site with spirit days and PD Days listed. Monthly update on the school website.
* There have been some concerns over how Grade 7 and 8 s are using technology. Safe tech sessions will be held for the kids to promote proper use of these resources. There was bad language, gossiping, creation of multiple accounts so that parents couldn’t track.

Q: Kate – can we have another tech session for parents.

Q: Agata – asking about policies for tech use in classroom. Robin – it’s up to teacher whether personal devices can be used, and under what conditions. Marina – policy goes out at beginning of year and kids must sign saying they will abide by rules. Students can sometimes use their personal device if teacher permits.

Robin – you don’t see devices out everywhere at this school.

Q: Christine – Digital lead at VM? A: Justin Rajala

Kate- Assembly dates – published on the webpage now. It is helpful for parents to know things as far out as possible.

Jennifer – Knowing the order of when kids will go on for assemblies would be helpful to parents.

Q: Kate – School Cash Online - We are moving towards this, but what is the option for parents who cannot do this?

A: Denis – we’ll do this with both. Need a way to promote to parents other than school cash online.

Q: Josie – Intermediate concert? A: No.

**Treasurer’s Report** - Cecile

Movie Night from October 19 - $518.45

Boot sale $154.30

**Current Balance $ 1132.17**

$500 grant from school board coming soon (Cheryl from OCASC)

Q:Pro Grants?

A: Jennifer – The government has cancelled PRO grants for this year.

**Report on Education Session (Kate)**

* Took place on November 3, 2018.
* Attended sessions on school council finances and best practices
* There were sessions on transportation, French, self-regulation, disabilities
* Very worthwhile conference
* This is open to all parents, put on by the board.
* Christine –recordings of all presentations are available on the website. Will post to FB and provide to Kerrie for website.

Jennifer – were there specific learnings for council?

Kate – as council we should not fundraise unless we have a dedicated goal. We should be specifying when we do a fundraising initiative. Council membership – not every parent is a member of council according to board policy. Repercussion is that you require quorum and must ensure that we have voting members. However, a council’s constitution can supercede this, as we believe VM’s does. In short term we will be really clear on fundraising. We will review the constitution.

Daniil – would like that we fundraise for school trips.

At present ,council does not fundraise for school trips.

**Website Update (Kerrie)**

Last spring, the school board added tabs on each school’s main webpage for council websites. We were not aware of this until this fall, when we realized outdated material had been copied over, creating a double website. Kerrie, Alison Palermo, Jennifer and Robin attended a training session in November to learn how to update the website, and will work to update the council site on the school website going forward. We can close down the Weebly site at some point in the New Year.

**Meeting Structure (Kate)**

Other school councils typically have meetings that last 90 minutes. How can we improve our structure?

Kate suggested the creation of info package on how to communicate – what is appropriate to bring up at council, what goes to teacher, what goes to office

Heather suggested streamlining the teacher report.

Charmaine – time limits for each session, likes having teachers present

Christine – teacher report ahead of time?

Jennifer – bringing some suggestions to the next meeting.

**Communication between Council and Parents - Discussion**

We need to keep in mind the best way to communicate with parents should we begin to have challenges once again with the Friday Update. Emails are challenging.

Kerrie – Use the website to engage

Cecile – ensure parents able to find a way to ask a question to council

Josie- reminder of link to website on each Friday update.

**Council Initiatives**

*Scholastic Book Fair – Cheryl –*

Lots of volunteers for set up on Tuesday.

Sufficient volunteers for Thursday, Friday, Saturday

*Do Nothing Fundraiser -Kerrie*

Launched entirely online via school cash online

*Arts Express Update –Kerrie*

Programming will start in January

*Book Giveaway –*

Heather requires $200 for purchasing books suitable for intermediate-level students, as we are always low on donations of books for this grade level.

Cheryl made motion

Cecile seconded

**Library Fundraising Project Update**

* No update received from Tammie prior to meeting.
* Robin will serve as admin co-lead for this
* Facebook page launched by Tammie for discussion
* Donna – Coles at Billings Bridge has donated thousands of dollars of books to us in the past. Love of Reading Foundation and other initiative. Host an evening where when we shop at the store that we receive about 30% of money raised. They have been really generous to us in the past. Donna willing to help with fundraiser.

**Fundraising Initiatives for 2018-19 Update**

*Samko and Miko* (Chrystal)- $101.30 from receipts from in person shopping plus online amount to be forthcoming.

Cecile – *DPA funding request* from Greg McKean – do we have an update? Kate spoke with Mr. McKean she has connected him with the two parents who were interested in spearheading a grade 8 legacy project to fund the DPA.

*Fun fair and Dance a Thon (Sam)*

* Administrative issues to be settled, but in January we will start dividing up tasks for specific parents to look after.
* Fundraising will be for the library. We will make this an annual event.
* Dance a thon fundraiser. Kids fundraise and dance for a block of time (with dj, lights, video). During or after school – looking into it for new year. K to 8 to participate.
* Marina – similar to jump rope for heart

Other business and ideas

Movie night feedback – better sound, more parental control, have intermission?

**Adjournment by 8:05 p.m. latest**