# 2018-2019 Vincent Massey School Council Meeting #2

#### Wednesday, October 17, 2019

##### Attendance

**Staff**: Denis Delorme (acting VP), Justin Rajala (Junior Division)

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

**Parents**: Becky Gallinger, Christina Moffatt, Christine Dalgleish, TJ Bains, Cheri Whitall, Chrystal Beckett, Daniil Zhuravel, Anne-Marie Thompson, Crystal Orlik, Charmaine Mentlak, Cheryl Khoury

Call to Order at 6:03

Roundtable – introductions.

##### Approval of minutes from September 19 meeting

Motion to approve: Kate

Seconded: Christine

##### Teacher reports and Questions for teachers

Justin Rajala attended from the Junior Division

###### Kinder division

* Perley visits and Elmvale public library visits beginning soon.

###### Primary Division

* No field trips on the calendar

###### Junior Division

* Nearly ready to wrap up soccer season– tournaments next week at Colonnade Mini Fields
* Bordenball opens up soon – boys and girls intramural teams in November, followed by school teams. School teams require that some students from each grade ( Gr. 4, 5, and 6) participate.. Wraps up before the holidays. Basketball in New Year.
* Field trip to Bill Mason centre towards end October for all junior classes. Will feature guided discovery activities.

###### Intermediate Division

* Football wraps up soon.
* Orchestra for Grade 7 and 8s.

Questions:

Q: asked for an explanation of Bordenball.

A: Handball game with passing and nets. Fast paced. Uses foam dodgeballs.

Q:Last year did we win?

A: We have some years in the past. Girls were 3rd last year. Kids get to progress from gr. 4 to 6.

###### Principal and Vice-Principal Reports and Questions

Denis Delorme attended as acting VP.

**At Council’s request, Principal Delorme provided an update on admin situation at Vincent Massey:**

* Principal Delorme is currently helping out as VP, assuming principalship later this week.
* It has been a difficult year at VM, with huge turnover in the office. There have been 5 principals, with a variety of VPs serving in the office since September.
* Principal Kateri Deschenes and VP Robin Small are currently on leave. Ms. Small has been on leave since the beginning of the school year, Mme Deschenes since a few weeks into the school year (after the last council meeting.) Micheline Grondin served as VP for several weeks before breaking her arm.
* Uncertain of why it has been difficult to get a consistent replacement administration in place.
* In addition one Grade 7 class has lost a teacher. A replacement has now been hired.
* Mrs. Lovett is currently the acting principal; her term ends tomorrow.
* Mr. Delorme is unsure why school council hasn’t been informed or why parents hadn’t been informed.
* Since arriving at VM this week, Mr. Delorme has been trying to follow up with parents to ensure resolution of issues.
* Principal Delorme has committed to Board to remaining at VM until end of December if needed.

##### Questions for Principal

**This is a recap of the discussion surrounding the issue of administration at VM.**

* Parents expressed a lot of concern that we hadn’t been advised about administration changes, and wondered about the Board’s policy on this. One parent in particular came tonight because of this issue.
* Mr. Rajala offered the teachers’ perspective : discipline is a challenge, but IEPs still getting signed, staff still getting hired and teachers and office staff stepping up to fill in necessary gaps.
* Many parents expressed surprise that we are only learning about this now. It’s parents’ role to advocate for this so that teachers do not have to look after admin duties beyond their role.
* Concern over lack of Friday Updates – challenge with revolving staff.

Cheryl made a **motion** to write a letter to the Superintendent on behalf of VM Council. Content of letter to request that VM parents receive consistent weekly communication from the school or superintendent; that VM be informed about ongoing staff changes, board policies and the plan going forward for staffing VP and Principal at VM.

Charmaine seconded the motion.

**Motion carried.**

Kate noted that parents are encouraged to send their own letter to the Superintendent too.

**Other issues of concern from last meeting were also raised:**

* The elevator is still not fully operational - staff have to run upstairs to operate the elevator, leaving students unattended. Delay seems to be on elevator company side.
* Principal Delorme said he would follow up on the elevator and noted that parents advocating to the superintendent makes a difference.
* Concern raised about the conversation taking place on the VM Council Facebook group surrounding bullying at VM and administration response.
* Parents should use as many avenues as possible to communicate with school on issues – front office, teacher, admins.
* Other issues – locks on all bathroom doors in girls’ room are broken.

##### Update on administrative changes at VM

Kate

* Council only found out about this recently and began follow ups. Kate called the office and reached Mr. D.
* There is not much on the OCDSB website about our rights and power. We do have some rights with regard to principal selection criteria.
* Cheryl suggested attending an OCASC meeting. Perhaps we could reach out to other councils for their experience
* Christine suggested reaching out at the Parent involvement committee
* It was suggested Council out to the school board trustee after Monday’s election. Invite to come to next meeting.
* Kate will be meeting weekly with Mr. D going forward.

##### Communication with VM Parents

Kate

* Friday Update is basically dead until there is someone in the office who champions it. Parents expressed their strong desire to continue to have a Friday update from the school.
* Cheryl – ask the Superintendent to communicate to parents on council’s behalf if Friday update is not possible.
* Christine - Council email address. Can we collect emails from interested parents and communicate that way? If we can issue a Friday update, we can encourage parents to contact us with their emails.

##### Council Website Update

Kerrie

* We noticed in September that the content of the school council website had been copied and pasted over onto the VM school website. This is a problem, because parents are more likely to find this site than ours, and we cannot update the school site.
* Kerrie followed up with acting VP Grondin and the school board web support. This is a new policy designed to help councils – it eliminates fees to maintain separate websites (VM Council site was free) and allows for better transition between councils following elections.
* The board web support is willing to offer us training so we can update the site ourselves.
* Kerrie to follow up with the parents who expressed interest on FB to arrange a training session to update the site. We will redesign the existing content and ensure that it is regularly updated going forward.
* Kerrie to report back next meeting.
* Christine offered to assist, if needed.

##### Treasurer's report

Cécile

* Balance listed at last meeting was incorrect. It is $ 459.52
* We should be receiving the $500 grant from school board soon.

##### Council Initiatives

Gardening Committee (Charmaine)

* 9 until 12 this Saturday getting garden ready for the winter.
* Need 5-6 pairs of hands.
* Cut back front garden and Kinder yard.
* Bring gloves and a yard bag.

Movie Night (Kate)

* Friday, Hotel Transylvania 3.
* Not expecting a huge turnout due to lack of publicity.
* Need 2 volunteers.

Boot Sale (Christine)

* Office had printed out the community flyer instead of the school flyer.
* Donations are going ok. Sorting is on Friday, 4-6. Sale on while movie is on Friday and on Saturday morning.
* Connected with principal of Saturday school to promote the sale

Scholastic Book Fair

* is this taking place this year?
* Who is lead for this and what council support is needed?
* Cheryl will email Elliot to ask.

Arts Express Update (Kerrie)

* Nancy from Arts Express has been unable to connect with a principal or VP to arrange for classes.
* We will put her in touch with Mr. D to organize things
* At this point, we propose to offer a class in winter session and spring session, as it is late to begin a fall class, and likely a while before we can have consistent promotion channels.

##### Library Renewal Initiative

Tammie submitted an update

* First meeting held last night.
* Group brainstormed vision at the minimal, medium and reaching for stars level.
* Even at the minimal level, we will require significant funds.
* A teacher rep on the planning committee will be helpful
* Fundraising should be big.
* Tammie will create a private FB page as virtual meeting pace.
* Tammie to develop a project plan
* Meetings will be held on Tuesdays, going forward, but not the same week as council meetings.

##### Fundraising Initiatives for 2018-19

Samko and Miko toy sale (Chrystal)

* November 7-11 sale at EY centre.
* Toy sale. Wide range of French-language books.
* VM has been registered. Parents can go shopping, when youthey make their purchase, mention Vincent Massey. Receipt will be stamped, and returned to us.
* VM gets a cheque totalling 10% of all receipts. (Double check if receipt can be emailed.)
* Code for online shopping too to credit VM with the 10%.
* Major communications process on our part. Poster and Friday Update communication.

Do Nothing Fundraiser (Kerrie)

* Council agreed this should go forward for November.
* Kerrie to contact Mary in the office to discuss timing and the process for using School Cash online
* Will need help in printing flyers

###### New initiatives – Carnival, Dance-a-thon, Dance Jam

Kate presented some of the ideas for new initiatives suggested by new council member Sam.

**Carnival:**

* End of year fun fair
* Involve Grade 8 students and parents
* Invite incoming kinder students
* There was a lot of enthusiasm for the carnival, especially with the Grade 8 parents present.
* Kate to book meeting with Mr. D to discuss.

**Dance a thon**

* sponsored to dance for 2 hours in gym during the day.
* All day thing – times for all divisions.

**Evening dance jam**

* For parents and kids to participate in
* Hire a dance instructor
* Replace a movie night

Becky raised the idea of Chapters/Indigo fundraiser as well. We will suggest this to Tammie for use in raising funds for the Library Rejuvenation Project.

##### Requests for funding from staff

Council has received the following funding requests and must determine how to respond

* 1. Pinnies/ Jerseys - $450 for 20 jerseys
  2. Sports balls – intermediate, but all kids access. $300
* We do not currently have sufficient council funds to grant these requests. We will defer them until after we have done some fundraising and will discuss at the next meeting in November.
* Is it possible to solicit donations of equipment from parents for DPA in the meantime?
* Becky and TJ suggested that donating the funds for DPA (sports balls) would be a great Grade 8 legacy project.

##### Other business and ideas

###### OCASC

* $35 membership.
* We don’t have a rep.
* Third Thursday of the month at Fisher Park.
* Christine and Cheryl will be reps.

###### Babysitting for meeting nights

Charmaine and Cheryl agreed to arrange babysitters for council nights going forward.

Safety concerns on Edgecombe.

* Parents stop and park there even when they are not supposed to. It causes a dangerous situation for pedestrians and cyclists.
* This is something that falls typically to the VP.
* Advise Mr. D.
* Cheryl – this has been raised in the past. Write to councilor.

**Adjournment 8:06.**