## 2017-2018 Vincent Massey School Council Meeting #8

### Wednesday, June 13, 2018

**Attendance:**  , Charmaine Johnson-Mentlak, Cheryl Khoury, Louise Doherty, Christine Dalgleish, Josie Sirna, Fatimah Husson, Heather Munro, Daniil Zurand, Anne-Marie Thompson

**Executive**: Jennifer Ellis (Co-Chair) Kate Connolly (Co-Chair, Kerrie Rodier (Secretary)

**VM Staff:** Kateri Deschesnes (Principal), Robin Small (Vice Principal), Wendy Curtis (teacher)

Call to Order at 6:05 pm.

Introductions

Approval of tonight’s agenda: motion -Cheryl, seconded -Josie

Approval of minutes from May 9 meeting: motion -Heather, seconded - Charmaine

##### Special Guests: Positive People Project -VM students

Student group working on positive spaces at VM. Group began with circle discussions, then became the Positive People Project – right now it’s grade 5, but will be open to all juniors. The group has 3 goals for projects next year

1. Art in bathrooms, with messages that make people feel good
2. Continuing the ARC- alternate recess club – library –
3. Junior leadership group.

Group has a teacher leader, looking for parent volunteer – with talent at art - and some funding for projects. Heather Munro is willing to be the parent volunteer. Mrs. Smith (art) is the teacher leader.

Funding – for art project, for games/craft supplies for alternate recess club /

Volunteers to staff the ARC – a few days a week, second recess. Turnout was often 60 plus kids. Chance for kids to mingle.

Council agreed to contribute funding to this initiative. To be discussed in the fall.

##### Teacher reports - Wendy Curtis

* May is very busy at VM.
* Kinder visits to Perley. Chicks or butterflies in class.
* Primary – Jump Rope for Heart $18,000 donations. Primary play days next week. Visits to CSTM.
* French presentations for all levels.
* End of year field trips – Upper Canada Village gr. 4.
* Track and field – VM finished 2nd overall at meet.
* New incoming intermediates have visited.
* Music Monday. Music night. Orchestra has been performing at other area schools.

###### Eco Club

Harry Newell (DOTS teacher) – has made a proposal and has been put in touch with Tom Thistle (greening contact for the board) and Hillcrest HS, which has a special environment studies program. Want to work with Hillcrest using Lynda Lane area and old baseball diamond area on VM property that no longer gets used. Looking for support from interested VM parents to get things rolling next year. Goal is making better use of this space and giving students ownership.

Cheryl suggests having a long term plan, wooden planters in past have rotted and been removed when there was no longer a staff champion.

Possibility of hydroponics. Ms. Curtis is looking into possible grants for next year, and contacts at Carleton University.

Kate – looking for parent interest? Subcommittee next year?

Robin – this particular project will depend on Mr. Newell’s plans for next year.

Jennifer – Community Environmental Projects grants. There are some to consider for next year. Many have March, April, May deadlines. For next year we should plan to touch base with teachers prior to this next year.

##### Questions for teachers

Josie – food program at Hillcrest. School year is not ideal for this. Winter sowing program – it was a challenge to find a place to keep them safely.

Cheryl – water play day? Primary June 26, Junior June 27, Kinder is TBC.

##### Principal and Vice-Principal Reports

###### Kateri

* Kinder teachers welcomed next year’s incoming students and parents last week.
* Next year’s incoming intermediates visited this week.
* Expecting fewer kids next year. Losing one primary EFI next year. Same number of regular program classes next year.
* June 26 – Report cards
* June 27 – Grade 8 Farewell
* June 28- Last day of school
* June 29 - PA Day

###### Robin

* Jump Rope was a big success
* Grade 7 info night last night
* Volunteer breakfast
* It was great to come back to VM this year, and enjoyed the council meetings and working with Kateri and staff this year. Got to run some good groups this year, like the Be Humble group, which arose out of bullying. Yoga, mindfulness room and ARC programs.

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

Cheryl: Any retirements this year? Kateri - Mr. Scarlett (Educational Assistant) and Bernadette O’Kurley (Office)

Daniil: Is there time to meet with teachers if parents have Qs about report cards? Kateri – contact the teacher with concerns. No specific interview times set up.

Josie: Any plans again next year for Social Media Awareness? Robin – organized by Larry (social worker) and Ms. Eichel and arose out of a situation. Was for parents and students. Josie - It was very positive and Larry was a good speaker. Would be a helpful tool for future years. Robin has been involved with one in the past with Ottawa Public Health.

##### Treasurer's report

Each division will receive its $750 allocated.

Bulk of our funds have been transferred to the school account. This is for convenience for school allocating and releasing the money. There is a coming regulation for school councils where all funds have to be held in school account and councils cannot have separate accounts.

Council Account – after all deductions, the total of this account will be moved to the school account.

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|  | | February Total |  | $2,440.20 |  |  |  |  |
| 10-Feb | | Babysitting |  | -$20.00 |  |  |  |  |
| 26-Mar | | Babysitting |  | -$75.00 |  |  |  |  |
| 02-Apr | | Books |  | -$27.00 |  |  |  |  |
| 10-Apr | | Movie Night |  | $291.00 |  |  |  |  |
| 07-May | | Movie Night |  | $247.75 |  |  |  |  |
| 08-May | | Scientists |  | -$750.00 |  |  |  |  |
| 08-May | | Mindfulness |  | -$900.00 |  |  |  |  |
| 08-Jun | | Multicultural Dinner |  | -$163.11 |  |  |  |  |
|  | |  |  | $1,043.84 |  |  |  |  |
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Cheryl has a question about the PRO grant allocation. Kate will follow up with her. Cheryl is willing to do the reporting for June 30th.

##### Refuse to Lose Award

30 nominations this year. Charmaine, Heather and Kate reviewed and brought them down to shortlist of 2 finalists.

Vote was held and Dakota Morgan was chosen as the 2018 recipient.

Heather will have the plaque engraved. Where is the best forum for presentation? In classroom – Robin and Kateri can give it out on our behalf.

##### Council Initiatives

###### Recap of Multicultural dinner (thank you cards?) – Anne Marie

It was well attended this year. Council signed thank you card for Fabricland for their donation.

###### Gardening- Charmaine

Looking for volunteers for summer watering and weeding over July and August. Watering and weeding mostly in the front. We have a hose and Charmaine has a key that can be passed on to turn on water and access kinder shed.

Seeking volunteers for July 29- Aug 11 and August 12-25.

Kate to post on Facebook. Jennifer can assist with Aug 12-25 if no one else volunteers.

If people are dividing plants, they are always looking for new things. Contact Charmaine. We require plants that like dry ground and hot sun.

###### Older kids’ activity - Kate

There was a parent volunteer who was interested, but we have not heard anything yet. We will make a note for September. Cheryl suggests a silent disco.

There was lots of buy-in for this activity, but we require a parent volunteer for this to organize and supervise.

Anne Marie – nice if we could have this for older kids who have outgrown movie night.

##### Follow up on Arts Express Extra-Curricular Programs for 2018-2019 – Kerrie

Kerrie offered synopsis of the proposal drafted for the administration. There was support from council for the initiative and the approach outlined in the proposal.

Some discussion of which courses to offer when. Potential to leave winter or spring term open to see what has proven popular through fall and winter. Kerrie to submit proposal to Kateri this week.

##### School Improvement Project for 2018-19

Ideas last time were school beautification, and library improvement.

Robin – positive messaging and beautification has come up a lot. PPP – beautification of library.

Blend some of the things we are working on – for instance can Cartooning class through Arts Express create art for school beautification or library.

Funding – grants or dedicated fundraising drive. Align pro grant money for library, Do Nothing could be focused on this.

We would need a library workgroup or committee for this, and they would need to consult with Mr. Poole. Chair of subcommittee.

###### Next steps:

Direction from school – we want some ideas from teachers and students. Commitment from at least one teacher to be liaison, and librarian buy in.

Form committee in September. Discuss over summer. Committee must report to council, but we don’t want council to erode.

Cheryl expressed willingness to serve as subcommittee chair, should there be a teacher and librarian on board with the project.

##### Grants – Jennifer

PRO grant application submitted for Arts Express activity about expressing positive messages through art expression.

##### Other business

Charmaine – any appetite to revisit nights when we have council meetings?

It was determined that we will do the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Kate to send dates to Kateri and Zeynep for September newsletter.

Shawarma Night in September – Cheryl, Robin, Anne-Marie expressed interest in coordinating. To discuss in June and August.

Lost and Found items – Charmaine keeps the good stuff over the summer and takes it to Boomerang Kids. Other items go to school bin and Value Village.

Cheryl – better bike racks? Let’s bring this up again this year. It seems that this was a project 2 or 3 years ago? Were they ever bought? Can we ask school board for this (Christine).

Kate – Executive positions next year – all positions are up for grabs next year if people want them. We will have elections at the September meeting.

### Notes for September:

* Funding request and support for this Positive People Project. Heather Munro to be connected Mrs. Smith.
* Look into a Greening Committee for Eco projects.
* Discussion of grants - have a first meeting in October, then discuss again in January.
* Potential PRO grant project for next year – Social Media Awareness
* Discuss improved bike racks for the school.

Adjournment at 8:03.