# Vincent Massey School Council Meeting #6 - 2017-2018

## Wednesday, April 11, 2018

**Attendance:**  Wendy Overend, Morgan Macneill, Galen Wong, Charmaine Johnson-Mentlak, Jen Blattman, Heather Munro, Daniil Zurand, Lianne Dueck, Tammie Winsor, Chrystal Beckett, Josie Sirna, Anne-Marie Thompson

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

**VM Staff:** Kateri Deschesnes (Principal), Robin Small (Vice Principal), Cynthia Smith (Kinder division)

**Handouts:**

* *Agenda*
* *Minutes from February 7, 2018 meeting*

**Call to Order**: 6:07 pm

Introductions of all attendees.

Approval of agenda - Motion to approve: Charmaine ; Seconded: Lianne

Approval of minutes from February meeting - Motion to approve: Kate; Seconded: Jennifer E.

Teacher reports Cynthia Smith from Kinder division

**Kinder**

* Thank you very much parent council for your generous donation that helped pay for our Scientists in School workshop - 'Simply Marvelous Machines'. It was a great workshop and the kids learned a lot.
* Thanks as well for organizing the Book Exchange. The children were happy to take home 2-3 new books.
* Ozobots and Bee Bots Presentation - A few weeks ago, we had Louise Vaillancourt, an Instructional Tech Coach for the Board, come in to work with us on coding and robots. The students programmed a Bee Bot to guide it through a small wooden maze. They coded some Ozobots by drawing colored lines and designs on white paper that it had to follow. Everyone had a great time and learned something new from the presentation. Below are links for you to explore more about Bee Bots  and Ozobots. Awesome!
* Last Elmvale Public Library visits scheduled for all classes this month.
* Canterbury Plays - April 24 - Kinder, Primary and Junior.
* Tomatosphere - We will be beginning our Tomatosphere project where each Kinder class will be planting approximately 25 tomato seeds from a control group (natural, untreated seeds), seeds from a treatment group (seeds that spent 5 weeks on the International Space Station in

2016.) We will record the number of seeds planted and the number of seeds that germinated and submit these results to the Tomatosphere team at “Let’s Talk Science.” We will be planting the seeds sometime within the next month.

**Primary**

* Thank you for organizing the book fair, everyone enjoyed getting some new books!
* In the last week of March, grade 1, 2 and 3 students were all able to go to MacSkimming. This is always a great day spend in the forest learning! Thank you to all our parent volunteers who accompanied us!
* At the end of March, all grade 1 students put on a mini-science fair to show everyone the structures that they build! Thank you to everyone who dropped by!
* The primary knitting club and art club have now come to an end. These were very popular and very busy clubs!
* On April 19th, grade 1 and 2 students will be walking to Pleasant Park P.S to watch the production of The Jungle Book! This is always a treat as the show is always great!
* On April 16, students will be watching a performance from some musicians from the NAC in the gym.
* On April 24, students from Canterbury will also be presenting to primary students.
* Thank you for the funds allocated to us!
* Grade 1 French Immersion is doing a Reading contest. Students are reading as many books as possible and recording what they’ve read.

**Junior**

* Juniors would also like to thank the school council for the generation book donations to the students.
* The juniors look forward to the Right to Play assembly on April 11th as well as workshops on Renewable energy for the grade 5 and 6 classes.
* Next month we are using our school council money for the Luv To Groove workshops and parents will be invited to come watch the dances. More information about dates will be sent home.
* Some Grade 5 classes visited Parliament Hill in late March. The Grade 4's will be visiting the Museum of Science and Tech in late April.
* Basketball for tryouts for junior boys is finished and the team is now practicing. The tryouts for the junior girls is happening right now and the team will be selected soon.

**Intermediate**

* Thanks to Parent Council for donating money to the intermediate division. We will be purchasing a Kinball (large ball) for phys.ed as well as using some of the money to help offset the cost of a DJ for the grade 8 leaving ceremony in June.
* Forms went home yesterday for the grade 8 end of year trip. We'll be doing an overnight in Kingston again this year. Grade 7s will be going to Carleton this year. Forms to come.
* If anyone has any gently used bikes, Mr. McKean's 7/8 class will be doing another bike tune-up day and donating the bikes to students in need. Please let him know if you have on that you would like to donate.
* Student Council has sent home spring bulb orders and are hoping to raise money to offset the cost of the year-end Kingston Trip. Clothing orders will also be coming home soon.
* We are wondering if Parent Council would be interested in receiving the intermediate calendar of events which goes until the end of the year - things like trips, leaving ceremony, stock market challenge, etc are on this calendar.

**Questions for teachers**

More info on bike donation please – to be included in Friday update

1. **Principal and Vice-Principal Reports (10 min)**

**Kateri**

Thanks for book exchange – kids spend time talking about the books, which is great.

Staffing planning for next year beginning. All students entering grade 9 should be registering. Bernadette O’Kurley is retiring at the end of the month, Mary will start full time May 1.

PA day – April 27

Council meeting May 9 is same night as intermediate music night at Hillcrest. Is this a conflict?

Intermediate music night is 7-8:30, May 9.

May 10 – Multicultural dinner 4:30-5:00 art, 5-6 meal, 6-6:30 fashion show

**Robin**

Occasional teacher shortage is improving. OCDSB now has a central dispatch system. Needs are shared at 7:30 am, and there is support centrally. VM has not been short since this system was implemented.

The Mayor visited to endorse Mr. McKean’s model social action project.

Student Voice component of Friday Update – what kids think is important to share. Hope that this will encourage kids to read the update.

**Questions for Principal and Vice-Principal**

Clarification on shortage of teachers. Robin explained that this related to supply teachers and recapped some information shared at previous meetings.

Bus question – how is the service going? Robin: Bus protocol where driver fills out a form or meets with Robin if there are incidents.

**Treasurer's report – Janice (10 min)**

Kate relayed the Treasurer’s report.

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| **As of April 10, 2018** | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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| **School Account** | |  | $2,342.00 |  |  |  |  |  |
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| **Council Account** | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | February Balance | | $2,440.20 |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Babysitting | | -$20.00 |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Babysitting | | -$75.00 |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Books |  | -$27.00 |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Movie Night | | $291.00 |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Total |  | $2,609.20 |  |  |  |  |  |
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| **Amounts promised** | |  |  |  | **Amount unpromised** | | | $378.20 |
|  | Mindfulness Seminar | | $900.00 |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Multicultural dinner | | $500.00 |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Kinder |  | $750.00 |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Primary |  | $750.00 |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Junior |  | $750.00 |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Intermediate | | $750.00 |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Total |  | $4,400.00 |  |  |  |  |  |
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| **Remainder of donation for books** | | | $173 |  |  |  |  |  |
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Jennifer – we received an email from a parent who would like to donate to pay for the music books for Ms. Burns’ class. Josie suggested a cheque deposited to the school account so we can issue a tax receipt.

Charmaine – VM’s Boomerang Kids account has about $100 that can be given to council.

It was noted that we should publicize the VM Boomerang Kids account to this to more parents – website, facebook, Friday update….

**Special Guest – Nancy Dean, Arts Express Regional Coordinator for Ottawa**

Program began in Toronto – about 120 schools participate there.

They charge for programs, but for every 10 kids who participate, a subsidy spot is available.

Link between arts and mental health. They exist to make arts programs more accessible – it’s easier for kids to participate. Based on process versus product. Arts as a way to explore the self, emotions, how to be creative, using arts for self- expression.

Four areas of programming.

1. Lunch and afterschool programs – come in at lunch or after school.

Programs include: drama, improv, visual arts – (sketching and drawing, cartooning),movement (hip hop, mindful movement: yoga-based exercises through storytelling, yoga and drama together) glee time – singing and choreography.

Usually 9 week sessions. Three terms within school year. Once a week.

Capacity – 1:20 teacher student ratio, and can add instructors as needed. Minimum 6 registrants.

Require a space to run programs – go through community use of schools and pay fees through that.

Cost – varies $120-140 for 9-week course. Every 10 kids; 1 subsidy spot.

Timing – after school 3:00 to 4:30pm. Lunch time – they do 10 to 15 minutes nutrition break, then do activity. It’s shorter than afterschool.

Can do two programs at once if there is interest and space.

1. Arts Express also offers camps, but not at schools. Broadway Creations – mini musical at the end of it. Creative Kidz – drama half day, visual arts other half day

Questions and Discussion:

Kate: what are the steps if we are interested in doing this?

--Send email to parents, registration and money goes through Nancy.

Kate: as school – we would have to decide which programs we would be interested in.

6 kids minimum for a program to run. Does not use school cash online, but you can register directly by credit card online through Arts Express website (or cheque option for parents who prefer not to do so.)

Age ranges Grades 1-8 - Grades 7-8 separately. Work in small groups together. Building community option for kids.

Also PRO Grant opportunities – Tackling Anxiety Through Mindfulness

2 hour parent talk with social worker. Other half is doing workshops with students – drama to help with anxiety, or visual arts (worry dolls). Mindful movement. The PRO grant covers the parent talk and one workshop – school can add on extras if they fund it.

Managing meanness by cultivating kindness: Parent and kid together session – behaviour discussion.

1. Council initiatives (20 min)
   1. *Book Exchange Recap (March)*

Heather – can we send a thank you to Rockcliffe Park school to thank them for donation of their books from their book sale. About 150 books donated. Jennifer B.– can the kids sign a large card for this? Heather can coordinate this.

Determine if there is a better way to message it to all teachers next year– some classes did not come down. If there is a better way for us to get the message out, we will do it.

* 1. *Movie Night (April) – Kate*

*Need one more volunteer: Charmaine agreed. It’s on Friday the 20th. Need some technical assistance – testing before the show starts.*

* 1. *Multicultural dinner – Anne Marie*
* System same as in previous years. Drop off dish, Art show, eat, fashion show. Mrs. Wilson is the teacher contact. We provide cups and juice boxes, serving utensils.
* Reusable tablecloths were decorated by art classes in Grades 5-8. Anne-Marie brought some samples to show. Charmaine – we should get photos before we eat on them.
* Kate: additional funds or volunteers needed? Need volunteers before, during and after. Charmaine – grade 7 and 8s and Hillcrest students in the past. Form coming home soon for sign up.
* Thank you note to Fabricland – photos and twitter…

**Music book purchase for Ms. Burns’ piano program (Facebook)**

Tammie – Heart of the City piano program recital was last month. Donna Burns’ books are 15 years old and they need to be replaced. Looking for council support to fund this.

Motion for council to purchase replacement music books – up to $200 – Tammie.

Seconded by Anne Marie

13 votes in favour – Motion carried.

Josie – another parent approached her wanting to offer a donation as well for the music books.

Kerrie – do we want to have a discussion next meeting about tangible needs for fundraising? Added to the agenda.

Lianne -how can we do a better job of reacting to needs so we can capitalize on parent offers to donate money in the moment?

Move back towards a wish list of tangible items that teachers need so we can be reactive?

Josie – categories / buckets. It would be nice for parents to see what is full – sold out option. Can school cash online do this – list fundraising options and show when items are “sold out”?

**Grants – Jennifer (10 min)**

**Parents Reaching Out Grants (PRO**) $1,000 – quite broad in terms of options. Commitment needed from school administration to support. We have to choose what we want to do.

We will send out a notice in Friday update for people to submit ideas for PRO grants. Deadline would be May 9 meeting.

**City grants** – these often need to be teacher led.

**Farm to Table grant** – Morgan – program brings salad bars to schools. Challenges are that growing season doesn’t correspond to school, and that this gets labour intensive for the school. Morgan can put forward paperwork if there is interest, but this would require staff support and interest. Breakfast program might be something we could support.

Ask school administration to review this program and find out if there is interest.

Robin – can we come up with two or three things that teachers could react to where council is interested and willing to support.

Kateri – the sustainability is the issue. Over the summer too. Greg McKean’s grant includes planting, but flowers, not vegetables.

Morgan – knowing school’s needs would help. Robin – a mixed committee teachers and council members

**Artwork in the school (Facebook)**

Robin – teachers have been talking about art around the school lately.

Heather – time for a mural update?

Would this work for a PRO grant?

Tammie – Library needs an update about stuff on the walls – Tammie is willing to speak with Mr. Poole about this, to get ideas.

Morgan -Look into grants for this.

**Other business**

Everyone liked email invitation send directly to all parents reminding them of the council meeting. If Robin can continue this, we’d be grateful!

Kate – movie night is good for grades 1-3. Can we do an activity for older kids? (Facebook discussion has occurred about this.) What would we do? Is it possible? Who would take it on?

Kateri – depends what is is

Kate – movie night aimed at older kids? Tammie – this worked at her son’s grade 7-8 school.

Kate – come up with ideas and see what’s feasible? Suggestions for next meeting.

Josie – Note that it is the 60th anniversary next year for VM. How should we mark this?

**Adjournment at 7:58**