Minutes

Vincent Massey School Council Meeting #3 2017-2018

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

**Attendance**: Jeffrey Fennelly, Galen Wong, Beth Nicholson, Cheryl Khoury, Anne Marie Thompson

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

**VM Staff:** Kateri Deschesnes (Principal), Robin Small (Vice Principal), Susan King (teacher)

**Call to Order**: 6:04 pm

Introductions of attendees.

**Approval of minutes from September and October meetings:**

Motion: Kate; Second: Cheryl (Sept)

Motion: Janice; Second: Kate (Oct)

**Approval of tonight’s agenda:**

Motion: Kerrie; Second: Jennifer

**Teacher reports (Susan King)**

Kinder

* Perley visits have started
* Public Library visits starting soon. New this year. 3 x per year for each clas**s.**

Primary

* Knitting club starting – collecting wool and toilet paper rolls
* Fire Safety presentations
* Remembrance Day Ceremonies on Nov. 10

Junior

* Bordenball for girls
* Gatineau field trip took place
* Mus of Nature – Gr. 4 Nov. 16
* Soccer intramurals went well. More intramurals to come

Leadership Group

* Food drive until Nov. 10th. Going well
* Group will attend WE on Nov. 15th

**Vice-Principal Reports (Robin Small):**

* Remembrance Day ceremonies to take place on Nov. 10 with special guests. MPP to attend 11:30 ceremony. Veterans and members of the Canadian Forces will be present to speak.
* VM has a new website. Board level changes for template – updates to the site are in progress.
* Issues with Friday Update have been resolved.

**Principal’s Report (Kateri Deschenes)**

* Report cards to be sent home on Nov. 9. Parent teacher interviews Nov. 23-24.
* School has requirement to share its fundraising plan with school council.
* Fundraising plan notes:
  + Pizza days $8K (off-set field trips)
  + Jump Rope for Heart $12K,
  + Terry Fox (in support of cancer research)
  + Leadership Group $300-400 (fundraising for charities of group’s choice)
  + Bake sales, Clothing sales (to defray costs of trips),
* Council added the following notes: Mabel’s Labels, Pita Pit, Scholastic (goes to school directly for library), milk fundraiser last year.
* Principal profile explained. It is something school council fills out every few years. Gives a profile of what we are seeking in a principal – qualifications, qualities. Kateri feels that the board does refer to this in selecting principals.
* Jennifer proposed we add discussion and review of the principal profile to the next meeting’s agenda.
* Well-being committee coming. School administration will want a representative from parent council. Will contact us by email and we can find a volunteer.

**Questions for Principal and Vice-Principal**

Q: Will there be calendar function on new website?

A: Robin will look into it – not there now, but should be.

Q: Are there character workshops anymore?

A: Robin – starting last year began to move towards exit outcomes instead of character workshops.

Still blending of classes? Some happening at Junior level. Kateri – part of well-being plan. Still finalizing. Robin – trying to also include achievement goals.

Q: Can Principal provide an update on staffing changes?

A: Done staffing changes. Kateri provided some explanation of this fall’s changes. A teacher in a kinder position was able to go back to his former school. Former school could not post job until September reorganization had occurred. The result is that Marina Deere replaced Erica McNally who replaced Marc Danis. Kateri noted that posting of known vacancies only in the fall is not an ideal process. Schools have given this feedback to board. Kateri noted that LTO positions can change during the year as other opportunities arise for staff. VM Staff do like to stay at VM when possible, however.

Jennifer suggested that we add staffing changes as a standing item on the agenda.

Q: How often do you go without supply teachers?

A: When there are no supply teachers, Robin will ask teachers to give up prep time. Robin will go in and teach in mornings if necessary. Merging classes is also done when necessary.

The shortage issue this year stems from Bill 174 – if teachers are on the supply list, it means that one day they will have a contract. Board wants to properly interview and vet all teachers on supply list. This problem started towards the end of last year. Shortage also happens teachers try to work for all four local boards to maximize their chances of a permanent position. An interview weekend has already been done this year to increase supply list – the board knows this is an issue .

**Treasurer's report** (Janice Dahms):

* Made a profit of $214.55 on movie night.
* Waiting for official boot sale info, but we made $113
* New balance is $1110.68

Need to check on whether we can pay for mindfulness seminars from our account, due to the need to pay GST. May have to go through school.

* Jennifer:
  + Council has received $1,500. $1,000 is for the grant, $500 is for Council use.
  + Mr. McKean’s Leadership group received a grant of $5,000 for gardening. Council down as sponsor.

Q: Are there commitments against this. A: $250 for tablecloths included. Nothing outstanding.

**Council initiatives**:

*Gardening – Charmaine (Kate and Cheryl updated)*

* Four volunteers. Would have been better with more volunteers. Took 1.5 hours. Keep putting it out there as initiative.
* Next action in February, to plan for spring planting and clean up.

*Boot Sale – Christine (via email)*

* Not as good a turnout as anticipated. Not in Friday update, and not posters as in past years. Need to determine who is in charge of putting out this information for next year.
* Robin noted that it was advertised in the Friday update.
* Determine if Saturday option is worthwhile – turnout is not as good. Not many VM families.
* If we do surveys, we should determine if this is a worthwhile activity.
* Beth: This activity started as a way to provide for families at VM. Collecting to provide to teachers at VM to distribute to kids in need. Is there a better way to achieve this goal?
* Ask Greg McKean’s group if they want to take this to Russell Heights or Blair Court.
* Kateri – language school on Saturday. Did we connect?
* Put on agenda to discuss September next year.

*Movie Night- Kate*

* Christine (via email) noted that there were a lot of unattended kids in the hall during movie night. We need to issue reminders to parents about this. Danger that this becomes seen as free babysitting night. Better messaging to parents ahead of time.
* Next movie night is February – volunteers welcome.
* Put out call for volunteers at our January meeting.

*Do Nothing –Kerrie*

* Kerrie to follow up with Bernadette to ask about how timing worked this year.
* Update on funds next time once we know.
* Otherwise, no action until next September.

*Scholastic Book Fair - Beth*

* Volunteers: Beth sent out email looking for volunteers. Has gotten some responses. Beth is going to check with Elliott Poole (Librarian) about changing set up time to 6-8 pm instead of 4-6 pm. Thursday requires lots of volunteers because it’s a really busy day. Can use as many volunteers as possible on Thursday.
* Saturday – try to get the Saturday school people involved. Beth with remind Elliott to reach out to them.
* Order of Events: Books arrive Tuesday. Sneak peek Wednesday. Sale Thursday day and evening, Friday morning and Saturday morning. Pack up Saturday.
* Kateri noted that we may not have booked the school for Saturday with the school booking list. Will have to check.

*Book Exchange - Beth*

* March.
* Kate – went with Heather and got 120 books at Rockliffe Book Fair for intermediate students. They donated these to us.
* Cheryl – we always need lots of 7 and 8 books because junior grades want them too. Ideally, best if intermediates can come first to choose books.
* Try the Elmdale book sale too – Cheryl.
* Cheryl – motion to grant up to $200 to Heather Munro to spend between now and March on intermediate-level books at book sales. Anne Marie seconded. Approved.
* Council can accept a hand written receipt for book purchases.

*Multi-Cultural Dinner – Anne-Marie*

* Multi cultural potluck in May for dinner. Anne Marie helps Mrs. Wilson with supplies for this.
* Tablecloth decorating project underway. Nice donation of fabric from Walkley Fabricland. Mrs. Wilson hemming this into tablecloths for tables.
* Fabric markers from Michaels – Mrs. Smith (art) going to take this decoration project to the kids. Cloths will then be reusable.
* Beth: will there be a fashion show this year? Robin will discuss this with Caroline Rassi to find out more about this.
* Kateri: Date for this is booked – May 10th.

**Mindfulness Seminar**

* January 25th for parents – babysitter booked.
* Registration for this – we need to have further communication for this. Put link for registration on Facebook and webpage as soon as council has been provided with the details.
* Cheryl agreed to be lead from council on this initiative.
* Need to book library for this.

**Constitution – Kate**

* Update to be provided at next meeting.
* Kate needs to verify mechanism for updating this.
* Kate to circulate notes on amendments to council between meetings to get input. Beth agreed to also review with Kate and assist with review process.

Put updates on website about this – Kerrie can do so once we decide what to post.

**Online payments for parents – Kate**

* OCDSB has been doing trials with 9 schools this past year. Plan to roll this out this year to all schools.
* Any payment to school can go through this. There is a service fee for use.
* This would also work for council fundraisers such as Do Nothing etc.
* We have no control over this at school level, but it is coming.

**Other business:**

Parking and Kiss and Ride (Beth)

* Seems to be a problem each year. Teacher portion works really well. Parents are parking in crosswalks, blocking traffic, etc. In past years it improved when staff were out there correcting the behaviours.
* Jennifer – there was communication provided last year which helped families who were unfamiliar with it. Perhaps time to send it out again.
* Robin sought clarification on what behaviours were causing a problem. She will re-send the Kiss and Ride info with the Friday Update.

Grading Scales (Jennifer)

* Do we rely on the individual teachers or is there a reference for grading scales – letter, vs. number? Kateri – good question for the teacher. Cheryl – send out the EQAO standard for parents as reference point. Post to facebook.

Nutrition Break Update (Galen)

* Is there an update on the nutrition break issue yet?
* Kateri : staff meeting next week. School is aware, will use what was looked into last year.
* Robin: 3 options that staff brainstormed last year and looked at research supporting it. Looked into pros and cons.
* Kateri – duty minutes is a challenge
* Beth – confirmed that individual schools have the decision on lunch breaks
* Update to be provided at next meeting.

Indoor Recess (Anne Marie)

* Expectations for behaviour during indoor recess? Kids are having to sit still rather than getting to move around.
* Kateri and Robin: Duty teachers must be able to circulate to watch all kids. Kids sit in groups and play cards, games, dominoes, etc. A lot of thought goes into making call about indoor recess.

Curriculum Nights (Anne Marie)

* Going to have them this year?
* Kateri – they will have a conversation about this for later in the year.

**Adjournment: 7:55**