



Vincent Massey School Council

Our mission is to actively support and enhance student learning through collaboration, communication and cooperation

Annual Report 2014-2015

The Vincent Massey (VM) Public School (PS) Council is made up of parents, teachers and community members dedicated to supporting and enhancing student learning at the Vincent Massey Public School. As well, the VM School Council acts as an advisory body to VM and to the Ottawa Carleton District School Board. Our Mission is to actively support and enhance student learning through collaboration, communication and cooperation. Our goals are to support and enhance student learning, celebrate cultural diversity, facilitate involvement of volunteers, enhance student play and physical activity, and beautify the school yard. We accomplish these goals through various means including raising funds to purchase school equipment and classroom resources, sponsoring events, and coordinating a variety of events to support the initiatives of Vincent Massey and the Council. These events include the Scholastic Book Fair and Book Exchange, Movie Nights, Meet-the-Teacher socials, and gardening/greening efforts.

The school year 2014-2015 was enriching and rewarding for Council and the VM community. The Council held regular meetings, open to the public, on the following dates:

- Tuesday September 16, 2014
- Tuesday October 21, 2014
- Tuesday November 18, 2014
- Tuesday December 14, 2014
- Tuesday January 20th 2015
- Tuesday February 20th 2015
- Tuesday April 21st 2015



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- Tuesday May 19th 2015
- Tuesday June 16th 2015

In partnership with Vincent Massey parents, teachers, staff, and community, the VM School Council raised approximately \$10,000 over the course of the 2014-2015 school year. Retaining a small percentage of these funds for anticipated operating expenses, Council was pleased to forward approximately \$8,000 to the Vincent Massey Public School to fund activities, resource needs, and the fulfillment of the “Wish Lists” submitted by Teachers.

As a notable part of its fundraising efforts, the VM School Council ran a Scholastic Book Fair, which earned approximately \$4,500 for library and literacy resources.

The VM School Council also collaborated to hold a number of events designed to bolster community awareness, such as the Coat and Boot Sale, the Book Exchange, and the Multicultural Dinner. As well, Council endeavoured to recognize deserving members of the VM community through its annual “Refuse to Lose” award.

As well, with its vast expanse of yards, gardens, and southern exposure, Vincent Massey offers splendid opportunities for community and cooperative greening. For many years, Council has engaged with its partners in the school and community to make the most of the opportunities for shared and cooperative gardening. Reaching out to local businesses and retail partners, Council has obtained gardening and landscaping resources from many community establishments and has benefitted from its many volunteers to “green” VM’s gardens, playgrounds, and open spaces. Looking forward, Council is eager to explore further opportunities for engaging the VM teachers, staff, and community in its gardening and greening endeavours.



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Minutes of the VM School Council meetings for 2013-2014, as well as additional information on Council's goals, activities, and upcoming events can be found on the Council website:

<https://sites.google.com/site/vincentmasseyschoolcouncil/home>.

The VM School Council acknowledges the hard work of its volunteers and its many partners, who participate with great enthusiasm, dedication, and hard work in the events and activities that benefit VM students, teachers, staff and community. Council is pleased to note that the Executive Board from the previous school year has been elected without opposition to continue in 2015-2016. The Council executive is:

- Co-Chairs: Cheryl Khoury and Elisabeth Nicholson
- Treasurer: Sabrah Talib
- Secretary: Elaine Kinack

The VM School Council eagerly looks forward to its many exciting challenges and opportunities in the upcoming school year and hopes to maintain its tradition of providing optimistic and unfailing support to the community.



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Financial Statement

As of October 30, 2015, the Vincent Massey School Council maintains a balance of \$6,562,99.

To fulfill its mandate to support and enhance student learning, Council has committed to forward all but approximately \$2,000 to each of the four divisions at Vincent Massey (Kindergarten, Primary, Junior and Intermediate) to partially fully fund the requests that VM teachers have formally made for classroom and outdoor resources, physical fitness and recreational resources, and artistic and literary events. Council's distribution of funds is intended to partner the efforts already underway at Vincent Massey Public School to obtain resources for technology acquisitions.

As required, the on September 21st of 2015 the VM SC has submitted to Mr. Michael Carson, the Chief Financial Officer of the OCDSB a year-end financial report. An exact duplicate of this year-end financial report is provided on the following page.



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School Name	Vincent Massey Public School	
School Council Chair	Elisabeth J. Nicholson and Cheryl Khoury	
Opening balance of all reconciled bank accounts, investments and cash on hand on August 1, 2014		\$6,974.98
The amount raised by school council during the year August 1, 2014 and July 31, 2015		\$9,839.34
The amount spent by school council during the year August 1, 2014 and July 31, 2015		\$10,251.33
Closing balance of all reconciled bank accounts, investments and cash on hand on July 31, 2015		\$6,562.99



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Principal Profile

This profile is a description of the qualities that School Council feels are essential for both the Principal and Vice-Principal. Working from the perspective of parent members of the VM community and School Council, we are focussing our attention on subjective qualities as they affect two things; first and foremost, the quality of learning and school life provided to our children, and second, the quality of the working relationship between the administrative team and Council.

With that in mind, the points in this profile will be presented as they relate to qualities of our school and its student population that we value and that we feel are in part a reflection of the leadership of the administrative team. We do not address competence in administration and academia, as these are certainly a given within the established OCDSB selection process.

WE EXPECT EXCELLENCE

The recent naming of VM as a RAISE (*Resource Allocation Index based on Socioeconomics*) School recognizes a fact that we have long known; we are at the same time both blessed and challenged by our broad cultural and economic diversity. At the start, we can identify three essential criteria. These are: Respect, Humanity and Stability. Without respect and humanity, a Principal at VM would not succeed at providing an excellent learning and living environment for all of our students. Without stability, any progress in achieving excellence could not be sustained and assured for the future.



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Respect

Visitors to our school, as well as hosts at places our students visit, often remark at how polite and well behaved our VM students are. Our children's comportment at school is largely due to the atmosphere of respect evident in all aspects of life in the school. This respect has been fostered by the style of the current and past administrative teams. We expect our Principals and Vice Principals to continue in this tradition.

Humanity

In making administrative and academic choices, we expect our administrators to consider above all the needs and welfare of all our children. The students who attend VM fill the entire spectrum of backgrounds and abilities. They come from many types of home situations, and at VM they attend a wide variety of programs. Therefore our Principal and Vice Principal require demonstrated track records of success in working with the broadest possible variety of students.

Stability

Principal turnover: The administrative team should remain stable for a significant length of time. This is necessary in order to provide time to build and maintain lasting cooperative relationships with the rest of the school community. Stability would assure their ability to work with the School Council on long-term plans to make improvements in school life and to maximize learning opportunities for all students.



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We would expect that, besides ensuring the Principal and Vice Principal each serve extended terms, they would not both be changed within the span of two years, i.e.: at least one full school year of time, and preferably more, should elapse between appointments.

Teacher retention: VM seems to be a school to which good teachers want to move, and at which good teachers wish to stay. We have enjoyed many examples of teachers spending much, sometimes all, of their careers at our school. This would have been possible only in an excellent administrative environment. If the Board tracks such things, a Principal's track record of staff retention would be a factor to be considered.

Stability within community: VM currently enjoys an excellent working relationship between the area's Multicultural Liaison Officer and the new-Canadian families he represents. The trust and comfort of our large new-Canadian population has taken a long time to build and it is imperative to the health of our school that it remains strong. To these families, in the midst of drastic change in their lives, stability in the school situation for their children is crucial to their ability to learn and assimilate.