

Last year, at this time, I reported that Alberta Education's mid-term evaluation of our school was in process. After a favourable assessment, we are now working on the requirements and recommendations which were laid out for us to fulfill as part of our charter renewal application which will be due by Dec. 2017. This work involves a review of our charter, which is being led by our Strategic Planning Committee. One of the priorities identified by the Charter Board, is that everyone involved in our school will understand and embrace the vision of our charter, so we will be using this review process as an opportunity to seek input from you, as stakeholders in our school.

In accordance with our bylaws, the VSF **Annual General Meeting** will be held on **Thurs., March 16, 2017 @ 7pm in the Viking Room** at the school. Parents/guardians of children in our school are automatically members of the VSF. Interested community supporters can become members by signing a *Declaration of Understanding*, which will be available at the AGM. Please contact any of the board members, if you would like more information about membership. As always, the AGM involves the election of directors: Our bylaws limit directors to 3 successive terms of 3 years, so for that reason, 2 directors, Brenda Kjemhus and I, will be stepping down as of the AGM, so candidates are being sought for these positions. Judy Hauger, who is coming to the end of her first term, will be deciding whether to let her name stand for another term. Thank you to all of the directors for their willingness to volunteer their time to the board's work. We appreciate their participation.

For any of these positions, interested individuals who are: 18 years of age or older, a parent/guardian of a child attending the VCS or a community member who is supportive of the mission of the VCS, are able to let their names stand for election to a 3 year term as a charter board director. Staff currently employed by the VCS may not be a director. For more information, potential nominees can find our charter and bylaws on our website (www.valhallacommunityschool.ca), or copies can be picked up at the office. In addition, The *VSF Director Nomination Profile Agreement* is also posted and needs to be signed by anyone entering his or her name as a nominee and returned to the school office before the AGM.

I would like to thank each one of you for your support and involvement in our Charter Public School. We are honoured to offer our students an education grounded in whole group direct instruction, incorporating mandatory second language and student leadership development. We are proud to be the first to create the *opportunity* for students to have the *freedom to choose a research informed* Charter Public School education in rural northern Alberta. Our dedicated staff is continually advancing in their ability to carry out our vision of equipping our students with both knowledge and skills that will enable them to make positive contributions at their future places of employment, as well as in the communities or groups with which they choose to associate. In addition, our excellent parent involvement, together with tremendous community support, help make our school a special place. Our board is committed to the continued *efficient, accountable use of the tax dollars* entrusted to us, so that we have the resources available to meet our goals of producing students who are excellent communicators and preparing students for community involvement and leadership. We are grateful to be a part of the only provincial education system that allows *equality for every child* by providing charter public school choice.

Our next regular charter board meeting is Feb. 23, 6-9 p.m. in the Valhalla Room. Interested individuals are welcome to attend. We really enjoyed the student and parent visitors at our January meeting and encourage others to attend. Our meetings are open, with occasional items that require us to move in camera. At those times, guests are simply excused for the duration of the discussion and then welcomed back when that subject is finished.

We look forward to seeing you at the Missoula Theatre Performance Feb.10!

Jolene Kochendorfer

Charter Board of Directors: Jolene Kochendorfer (Chair), Judy Hauger (Vice-Chair), Tracy Campbell, Brenda Kjemhus, Brandie Skaksen, Donna Steyer, Nancy Westad