

VCS Council  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
December 3, 2020  
10:30am Via Zoom  
Meeting ID: 475 290 4212  
Chair: Teresa Boucher (780) 814-4827  
Vice Chair: Stacie Wright (587) 297-4522

In attendance: T. Boucher; J. Syme; P. Braseth; S. Mumert; S. Wright;  
K. Strand; S. Miller

**Call meeting to order @ 10:35 am**

**Approval of November 5, 2020 meeting minutes - AIF**

**Principals Report:**

- *Government guidelines have all students learning at home from Jan 5th-8<sup>th</sup>. VCS will send home learning packages for K-6 this week as it seems unlikely to get everyone set up online for those few days.*
- *If more extreme government restrictions come into play in January and we are required to stay home longer than the 8<sup>th</sup> then the online learning will resume for all grades.*
- *Christmas videos are to be done by all classes like our Remembrance Day video. Jr. Highs contribution was last minute as they were required to become at home learners before having time to prepare anything*
- *Jr. Highs are off to a good start with the at home learning process.*
- *It was asked if a zoom crash course could be given to parents regarding google classroom. Steve agreed that this is a good idea and will resend the tutorial link for google classroom to all grades as well.*

**Chairs Report**

□ We are currently still looking for several individuals who would like to step up and shadow our chair, vice-chair, and secretary, with the hope they would take the position next year with the help of the current executive they choose to shadow. This was posted on November 23, 2020 and there have not been any responses. I would also like to put it out there for someone to take over organizing our hot lunch program, we need some parents with younger kids as there are a few of us who will not be here in 2 years.

- *It was discussed that we could send home a letter with all parents asking for parent reps from each class to join our meetings. Kristin to do up a draft letter*
- *A short video presentation on executive roles was suggested as a tool when asking for people to shadow council positions. This should be geared towards the K-4 parents.*

□ ASCA Course – Emailed ASCA about taking a course from them and they are only receiving 1/3 of their funding from the government this year so they are not booking any courses until they figure out what the funding change means.

□ A very interesting idea was mentioned to me, having a zoom coffee gathering with anyone who is interested and discuss all the different items that have be brought forward. Make the gathering halfway in between our actual council meetings. Minutes would not be taken and it would be a very informal setting but it would non the less be a controlled setting for parents to discuss issues that arise.

- *Teresa to investigate setting up something possibly during Christmas break*

□ Would teachers like something in place of fieldtrips this year.

- □ Steve emailed me, and teachers feel there is not time in the day and they have been asked to add Outdoor Ed activities into the schedule so are reluctant to give up time on Fridays for extra activities in the gym.
- □ We discussed offering Yoga and/or Martial Arts to our students, with council paying for the online subscription. Steve says teachers are trying to maximize outdoor activities as much as possible so not currently. Council posted on November 30, 2020 that if Jr. H. would like to join in free online Martial Arts this past Tuesday, they could contact Sarah Miller for the info. Ferris Family Karate has said our Jr H can join for free for the next 2 Tuesday's as well if they are interested. When we are trying to pass information along to a class, who do we approach to pass information along?
  - *Information can be given to Steve and he will pass it along to the appropriate people. Teresa will send Steve a link he can pass along.*
  - *This is something that might garnish more interest if at home learning is enforced for a longer period*

- *Jr. High teachers to gather feedback from how this is received by students.*

□

### **Treasurers Report**

I have reconciled from September 1st to December 1st and we balance as of today.

*Balance Total: \$16857.60*

*Hot Lunch/Healthy Snack Total: \$3142.25*

*Healthy Snack Total: \$4200.97*

We purchased a new laptop and mouse, and everything has been transferred over. Teresa has put her subscription of Microsoft word on the laptop for council use.

Steve Mumert to investigate all items purchased by the school council at the request of the school as per last meeting.

- Sound system in the gym
  - *Works fine when used. No expansion necessary at this time due to the fact the gym is not in use because of COVID-19*
- Smart board
  - § Do we need another smart board or other electronics?
  - *Smartboard not needed at this time, Chromebooks however could be useful*
  - *It was asked if Chromebook stay at the school. Well it was recommended that they do, the school understands that it is necessary to lend out to some of the at home learners.*
  - *Steve to investigate amount of Chromebook needed*
  - *Outdoor ed grant includes an electronics portion. This could be potentially be used towards some new Chromebook as well.*
  - *Nothing high end is required. Basic Chromebook are fine.*
- Bus Cameras
  - *One camera was installed but failed and has no warranty. John Moutray to install the other 2 cameras himself over Christmas break*
- Bottle fill fountain
  - § Who will do the maintenance for us?
  - *With Don leaving, the Heritage Society oversees maintenance now. All requests are to go through them.*
  - *Steve to touch base with Don regarding water filters for this fountain. Do we have any in stock? Do they need to be ordered?*
  - *Council to cover the cost of replacement filters as they are ordered.*

We also purchased the check book holder thankyou!!

Online banking has been all set up and working well.

## **Board and TAAPCS Report**

TAAPCS Leadership meeting via Zoom December 1 2020 talked about the best way to support online delivery by building a bit of a customer support line through Parent/School Councils. Parents are encouraged to use the appropriate means of communications to PC Executives the information is then brought forward to parent council meeting as advisements to Administration with follow up in next meeting minuets.

Policy Committee is looking for a parent to sit on committee, we meet once a month either Zoom or at the school (whatever is most convenient).

Policies up for review are sent out via email for everyone to have time to review then at meeting we adjust as needed.

We are looking for parents that are well aligned with VCS mission & values.

If you have interest or questions please feel free to call, text or email:

Jenine Syme 780-933-0523 jsyme@valhallaschool.ca

## **Updates on Committees:**

### **• Healthy Snack – Stacie Wright**

- *Going well. Lots of NutriGrain bars available still. Freezer well stocked with hot lunch leftovers for kids who need a lunch*
- *Kristin to keep an eye on snacks needed*

### **• Hot Lunch – Teresa Boucher**

- I am looking for someone who would like to take over organizing volunteers to come in to make hot lunches. If there are no volunteers here we will post on Facebook as it is a position that can be taken on outside of work hours.
- *Sarah M to make a Facebook post regarding this.*
- *Interest in adding extra hot lunch days where it is just pick up or delivery to the school. No cooking. Preferably a Wednesday as this is a Kindergarten day.*  
*Penny motioned to release funds for an extra hot lunch day in January.*  
*Jenine 2<sup>nd</sup>. AIF*
- *Hot Dog days are virtually free at this point as H&M donated and will continue to donate hot dogs to us.*

December 4, 2020 Taco in a Bag  
December 11, 2020 Hot Dog

Christmas Thur Dec 17 Pick up pizza at Costco  
January 8, 2021 Hot Dog  
January 22, 2021 Will let me know  
February 5, 2021 Hot Dog  
February 19, 2021  
March 12, 2021 Hot Dog  
March 26, 2021  
April 16, 2021 Hot Dog  
April 23, 2021  
May 14, 2021 Hot Dog  
June 11, 2021  
June 25 last day of school

- **Fundraising** – Sarah Miller (780) 545-0523
  - Christmas Concert Facebook Auction update.
  - Items coming in slowly but surely*
  - Friday is the deadline for items to come in. Online participation is lacking. Please share the event, click on attending, add people you know.*
  - Parent email to be sent out by Kristin – adding link to auction site*
- Should we put it out there that we will give the kids at the school a pizza party when our Facebook page hits 200?
  - *not discussed at this time*

- **Sanitization** – Stacie Wright (587) 297-4522
  - The Sanitization Committee has put forward to the Principal a list of questions we have received from parents concerning the necessity of our parents, support staff and teachers being asked to volunteer their time to clean.

People were questioning why the custodian couldn't take on the extra cleaning due to COVID-19 and voiced concerns that staff that were tasked with cleaning were not then able to focus on our kids education, taking away from the kids. The short answer is budgeting. The Principal, Board and our Superintendent have heard parents concerns and are currently looking into possibilities on what to do with the remaining funding from the government that would address these concerns. The funding was first spent on products for sanitization. They have also stated that the current cleaning model was not taking away from the children as it was being done while the kids had lunch, recess or after school. Parent and community volunteers are needed to avoid burnout of the people who are giving up their breaks to clean

and keep our children safe by following protocols. It is my understanding that the school did technically bring back more EA's than were needed based on the number of students. They did this to try and offset the added responsibility. When asked why the custodian could not just start earlier, the answer was in an effort to distance him from the students to reduce the risk that he become ill as he is our only custodian and thought needs to be given on how to keep him safe

- *The online link to volunteer will be reshared*

- **Communications** – Micah Fricke

- *No update currently*

**Advocacy Information for helping keep Charter Schools open:**

- *Some council members attended a meeting regarding this but are needing more clarification before presenting anything concrete on this subject*

**Council Sign up form:**

- The council executives will be working on our Council sign up form that goes into the registration package for parents each year and bringing forward the adjusted form to our February meeting. If anyone is interested in helping please contact Teresa or Stacie.

Advisement to Principal on schooling for when kids are home sick

**Sensory Path**

- Kristin has contacted the original lead on this project, and they have tentatively said they will do a presentation to the Heritage Society in the new year to get some clarification on what is happening with this project. If there is anyone interested in helping her do this, please contact me and I will put you in touch with her. We will keep everyone informed as new information comes into us.

*-Sarah M to put info on Facebook asking for any parents interested in this, she will also help the original lead on this project at the Heritage Meeting addressing their concerns.*

**Black History in our Classrooms**

- It was brought forward at our last meeting that there is a parent concern about how much Black History is being taught and if it is enough.
- There is really no Black History mandated in the Alberta Curriculum, and teaching the curriculum is required and takes all the teaching time we have.
- That said, our teachers do try to enhance the curriculum where and when they can. They teach about black history when it is related to a curricular topic that we are working with. Some examples:

- o In grade 3/4 Social Studies in the unit on Alberta History, in the context of the “cowboy culture” students learn about a black cowboy who invented bulldogging. In grade 7, students learn about the black loyalist people who fled the American Revolution and settled in Nova Scotia.
- o In grade 8, in the study of World Views, black slavery is covered. In grade 9, in the study of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, students discuss and learn about race in general, including the black race.
- o Over the years, in Language Arts, students reference black history (and other non-curricular topics) when their readings and assignments are related.

- I do want to mention here because we are discussing our curriculum, the outdoor ed program will be helping to enhance our teaching of local native culture and hopefully their history as well. Western Cree is supporting this with some grant money and working with us to supply PD for the teachers and as we get going, student instruction as well. This will be presented as part of a larger multicultural package, so we are teaching about other cultural groups as well.

- If there are parents who feel more black history needs to be added to our curriculum a committee needs to be formed to figure out the particulars and form an advisement to be brought to the council. So, anyone who is interested please contact me after the meeting and we will get a committee set up.

**Adjournment @ 11:34 am**

**Reminder the next meeting date is January 7, 2021 at 10:30am via zoom**