

Vincent Massey Jr. High School, Calgary, Alberta
Vincent Massey School Council Meeting

Meeting Minutes - Date: May 7th, 2025

1. Call to order at 6:40 pm

2. Attendance -Quorum for meeting.

Parents: Rayelene Andersen, Jacqueline Cornett-Ching, Heather Thompson, Jane Radiff, Chris Le Bihan, Rachel Sawyer, Stacey Zurburg, Diane Jeffers, Heather Romalo, Van Minh Tri Vo, Lindsay Kelchen, Lisa Jones, Nadia Hutton, Enas Awwad.

Admin. Guests: David Pugh, Principal, Meghann Springett, Assistant principal

3. **Approval of prior minutes** (date April minutes) approved by Diane Jeffers , seconded by Chris L.

4. **Review of the Agenda-** nothing to add

5. **Administration Report:**

- Lots of exciting news and successful events at VM thus far for the year
- Grade 8s went to the zoo, see the learning on the VM television photos in the halls
- Grade 7 band camp was successful and the same night arriving back the Music teacher went to Earnest Manning Jazz band event too (very committed to building the program)
- Heritage trip to Ottawa was successful, there will be a "Share Back" event on Wednesday for families and public who are interested in hearing about the learning on the Quebec Heritage Trip
- Grade 7s Drumheller Badlands , thank you to parent council for the financial support to make this trip possible for ALL the grade learners, many have not been to this type of trip
- Grade 6 tour and open house format was different, slight decrease in numbers but this is how VM will run the event next year too. It was a good turn out, the tours by students were excellent and well received. David did not speak at the front of gym, and he's okay with that adaptation to the program ;)
- Meghann S (AP) spoke about Anita the Indigenous Elder for the Grade 9 teepee provocation activity. Having our Indigenous students set up the teepee and take a leadership role to share with other students ; history of the teepee, the math of the teepee, the structural integrity of this significant shelter to the people of this land was very moving and powerful. Some students participated while others observed this beautiful weather day.
- Grade 8 and 9s Anything Goes Haiti Town play at Central Memorial H.S. David accompanied them as they needed one more adult. The quality seemed more skilled than a high school play.
- Mobile escape room this week has been good with student engagement.

- Area 7 leader Gary Tink visited Vincent Massey and he was impressed with our programing, teaching and learners as he walked around the school observing, participating, and asking questions.
- Calgary Police Services will be visiting Gr. 7s to review Cyber Safety information
- Outdoor Leadership (club) Grade 8s will be heading to Sunshine coast soon, Powell River area, May 21 - 31. Very organized parent meeting with Rusty and David happened this week, excellent fundraising event happened on Saturday night. Thanks to all the parents and Jennifer Collins for taking the lead on that event.
- English LA PAT testing all online this year
- School Development Plan (SDP) the teachers attended professional learning and reported back about the workshops they attended. The most interesting one that will support learners is the rebranding of Wellness/Leadership. David and admin/teachers feel that Grade 7 "Leadership" is a bit young of expectations, so they think letter leadership emerge rather than a labelled course on it - the new model THRIVE will equip grade 7s with social, emotional, physical, and intellectual modalities to build sense of belonging, and have student contribute new ideas to their communities and build confident. Students choose a 'domain' to build a model of contribution (i.e. dodgeball tournament, quiet space creation, or calligraphy club, one group has even made Massey Money with Mr. David Pugh's photo on it, and they are doing a presentation of a system of enhancing learning with this motivational money. After two weeks there will be a market at which the Grade 7s can spend the money. This THRIVE program gives voice and choice (any questions, ask Meghann S.)
- SDP continued, looking over the surveys, we see many areas or 'up' in satisfaction which is good to see. When asked, students say they are feeling more supported and capable, and like they belong.
- One area we need to still improve is Diversity Representation, as a student "Do I see myself, my culture, my identity in and around the school environment"
- Finally, the major change this month was the School Walk Zones (Mr. Pugh gave an example about how there may be a ripple effect with school busses, walking, transit changes from one school possibly changing school populations - but VM not really going to have dramatic population changes → estimated numbers Sept. 821 (compared to 874 today). Staffing rounds will start and Mr. Pugh does not foresee any layoffs of his staff. There will be a full time resource and a new Learning Leader for Numeracy, we need a full time person for this because Mr. Cull is pulled in too many directions.
- Note: new bell times Mon - Thurs 9:15 - 3:50 pm; Fridays 1:16 dismissal
- Admin feels longer classes and nutrition breaks, rather than a full lunch will improve learning overall for Fridays.
- The Grade 8s and 9s chose their 4 courses options online, the 5 and 6th choices were recorded in case the top four don't work out for students - admin kept a record.
- The Grade 7 options is still the WHEEL to expose children / youth to a variety of subjects and skill areas. Don't look at the options are "I'm stuck with ... xyz" but rather enjoy trying new areas.
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6. **Chairs Report:** Raylene A. asked the principal to look for / or ask Rhonda for the engagement grant cheque. She attended April Council of School councils of AB. There is a presentation online with all sorts of information - capital plan, annual funding plan trying to keep up with inflation. NOTE: Alberta is the lowest per student support funding per child in Canadian provinces. Raylene says we need to use our voice to keep this matter at the forefront. Finally, she made the council aware that the ODL program and fundraising event was excellent. The 50/50 draw, the silent auction, and sense of community was so positive, as was the team work from parents, teachers, and students.

7. **New Business:**

- A) **Teacher Appreciation** - After much discussion about whether parents should bring in dishes or go to a donation of money model, there is what was decided tonight: The date will be Friday, June 20th at 1pm catered so that teachers can relax and enjoy time together to be celebrated. The model we will try this year is Healthy Hunger donation choice for all parents (Jane will set it all up soon, so it's ready to go). Then after we try Teacher Appreciation this way we will reassess to see if more families get involved financially. It's optional and the office will only be allowed to state in a School Messenger - Go [HERE](#) to this LINK to decide donation or not.
- B) **Lunch Hour Seating** - Parents brought up that their students have no where to sit (parent council has discussed exploring the purchase of a couple more tables), David explained that a new model for next year will be more consistent; first half of lunch is 15 - 20 minutes and students can be inside (stage, classroom, other), and then 2nd half of the lunch hour all students head outside (even at -5 or -10 etc, it's Calgary so dress appropriately and get fresh air). The model needs to be predictable and consistent so teachers and most importantly students know what's expected.

Meeting adjourned at 7:28 pm.

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