

School Council

Minutes - Wednesday, April 1 , 2026
6:30 p.m. School Learning Commons

1. Call to order - 6:40 pm

2. Attendance - Quorum achieved for meeting

Parents: Heather Thompson, Rayelene Andersen, Jacqueline Cornett-Ching, Jane Radiiff, Audrey Newcombe, and Rachel Sawyer.

Admin: Jen Laurendeau, on behalf of David Pugh

3. Approval of the Minutes:

Motion: Moved to approve date minutes by Jane Radiiff ; seconded by Audrey Newcombe - *Carried*

4. Review of agenda and accepted as presented

5. Administration report

- a. Curricular Focus; Mathletics is going very well and kids are benefiting tremendously from targeted support, April 24th is an important PD related to how we know students as individuals, let's move away from "deficit-based" models of looking at students, Grade 7 wheel change happens on April 20th
- b. Upcoming Events; Gauss Math Contest run through University of Waterloo will be on May 13th; Open House for Gr. 6s to visit VM happens on April 10th (no booth this year),
- c. Staffing; REM will be coming out soon which tells Admin funding for staffing - stay tuned, we are hopeful that spring staffing that money coming in might increase to improve structures to directly address the gaps in literacy and numeracy,
- d. Wishlist Development; Thanks from band students who are starting to receive their instruments (i.e. one student showing off his / her new saxophone, and unboxing happens next week with Gr. 9s),
- e. Celebrations ; ODL snow caves went extremely well, great wrap up for Gr. 9s; Big Band Gala at Manning went well, seeing past students was meaningful and current band students enjoyed performing; Pascal Math - placed VM seventh in Calgary out of 41 and 9th out of 51 Alberta teams (with the top scoring student from VM); Rusty did a great job with Wildwood Antarctica presentation, questions from students were great, it was a fun event to watch; Vball crushed it winning three divisions in one night at Manning - Sr. Girls, Jr. Boys, Sr. Boys; Visit to Grade 6 schools went well. TRIPS UPCOMING: Drumheller April 14-16, Calgary Zoo , while FRED FOX will visit as guest to Gr. 7s and thank us for fundraising

School Council

6. Chair's report
 - a. Patricia Boger Ward 6/7 Trustee postponed - the fall School Council can look to pick up this ball and run with it to engage parents with the school Trustee. Hopefully get more parents out because end of year is busy anyway
 - b. Healthy Hunger update from Jane is that \$3600 to date has been raised; the cookie day from the strike week has been moved to the first week of June easily , and teachers can hand out the 11 am orders when it's convenient for them. We have Kernels for band, Kernels for School and more days. There are 5 or 6 more Healthy Hunger days
7. Staff appreciation - Jane will organize the new practice of making a healthy hunger for parent donations to the teacher appreciation fund for teacher gifts, that worked really well last June so we will keep this tradition going this year.
8. New Business: Audrey reporting for Music Parents and her experience at Band Camp was incredible. Kai continues to inspire and devote himself to the program above and beyond what is expected of teachers. Our 8s and 9s helped the grade 7s, as did Kai commit himself to the mentorship of Grade 7s who are sometimes pretty hectic and unpolished. He believes in investing in time with them to model the music expectations. Audrey shared with the School Council a sample day from Band Camp: music ensembles, escape room, archery, low ropes, team building, games, fantastic communication teaching for the band kids. This experience was great for kids who hadn't been away from home. Finally, she wanted the School Council to know that the music program helped 20 families make sure their kids can go to Band Camp and they felt very proud of offering this experience.
9. Next meeting - **Wednesday, MAY 6**
10. Adjourn - 6:51 pm