

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

Meeting Minutes - Date: Wednesday, December 4, 2024

1. Call to order at 6:30 pm
2. Attendance - Quorum for meeting? Yes.
Parents: Rayelene Andersen, Jacqueline Cornett-Ching, Heather Thompson, Jane Radiff, Krista Leonty, Chris Le Bihan, Rachel Sawyer, Stacy Zurburg, Angela Hoza

Administration and/or Guests: David Pugh, Principal
3. **Approval of prior minutes (November 6, 2024):** Approved by Rachel Sawyer, and seconded by Stacey Zurburg.
4. **Review of the Agenda-** nothing to add.
5. **Administration Report:** Lots to celebrate two championships, an important part is having fun at the middle school level, explained Mr Pugh. Girls are playing in city rounds tournament with finals on Friday (playing Brampton tonight). Remembrance Day Assembly - the split assembly format worked really well. Music teacher did an awesome job at this event. Second winter camp done, Grade 9 skills camp #2 being out in K country. Bamfield was a great success. Mr. Pugh loved wearing a Science teacher "hat" supporting. This was a chance to get to spend time with learners in smaller groups. Thanks to Lisa Lima for a job well done. The 'bomb cyclone' in the news about weather in BC was a bit of a concern for parents, but being in the environment near the ocean was a teachable opportunity leading learners through adaptability skills (i.e. indoor labs) Thursday weather broke a bit and learners got to go outside. Friday we drove through Port Alberni, both sides of the highway were full of debris (social media photos were what was concerning for parents to view without their child). Everything was fine with these students. Parents should listen for info about parents meetings for Bamfield trips in Spring for the actual trip in the fall. Band performances of various types make for busy events coming up like Music Festival. Manning's presentation was excellent. The Central one was good too. MRU basketball trip was excellent to watch Men and Women teams for a special VM trip here in the city. Mr.Pugh went for part of that, he restated that VM is a very busy school. While he was in Bamfield, Anita C. an Indigenous Elder worked with VM staff working towards the mural and getting to know the land together. How will we engage her with our learners in the months to come? Mr. Pugh said the lockdown drill went well. The Education Act requires six fire drills per year. Lock down will be two per year, as driven by CPS. This year so far so good, no behaviour issues. Heritage trip, Grade 9, the deadline is tomorrow but the forms have not been coming back in - approx we have 24 as of today. The Fees Report for parents is now posted on the school website. Notes in the document explained where the funding comes from

and how monies are spent. Transparency: We ran a bit of a deficit and it's covered by school. Mr. Hall took charge on the Manning trip for Grade 9s for high school tours. Four high schools that we feed into is because VM is a large school. January tours will be Bowness and Western on the same day. Central Memorial is in the process of finalizing their tour date and that will be posted on VM website and the Central Memorial website too. "Try a trade" - CT Centre is managed by Mr. Cory Hall, he knows which students benefit from this tour. Parents can find opportunities to get their child in if they were overlooked email Mr. Hall. School conferences, from Mr. From Pugh's perspective went very well. Challenges included - a new translation service available on demand by phone which is good as we can access it at any time (convenient). Immediacy and clarity. Down sides include: (1) In the context of a conference it's hard in the gym, and (2) translation takes twice as long. Look at other options, as we need to support those parents a bit better. The demand is quite high, the number of students means all grade 8 and 9 students have four teachers. Most parents want to speak to all four. Positive feedback to Mr. Pugh, several parents thought the gym setting was excellent (a bit loud) but organized. Friday's online Teams meeting suggestion: if it could go to parent calendars, just an idea, could the system make it so parents can find link more easily the day of their parent-teacher conference online. Discussion about : Can parents make appointments with all teachers (including options)? For example PE teachers welcome parent teachers, but some may have suggested please don't make too many appointments unless absolutely necessary. Mr. Pugh thinks that this should not be the message. He met with the Leadership Team to debrief conferences, they talked about how to give students a bit of a voice in ten minutes. Giving staff time to reach out to parents during staff time before Break , perhaps reach out to those that are struggling as learners whose parents did not come to conferences? Parents should feel welcome to book all teachers. Wrestling meets are coming up, we are hosting right after the Break. VM has three really enthusiastic teacher leaders and coaches with experience in wrestling. We are rebuilding the program, and Mr. PUGH is excited about the interest. Music concert Dec. 12 - dress rehearsal will be Wildwood and Westgate students in the audience (gym will be packed). All parents are welcome too, it's a great show with Kai. Winter Activity day Dec. 20th , 2024 .Selfie Booth and DJ are good to go. Lots of fun events, morning break, snack, no pop, lots of choice and a dance is optional. School development is readable and accessible on the VM website. Our goal is improving literacy (writing is our main goal, as we still see the gap, our reading is high and writing is on same level as provincial) and numeracy (increasing student math confidence is important). Collaborative math learning is important - opportunity to help each other - peer teaching/discussion. Variety of modalities. Vocabulary in all subjects (EAL focus but benefits all learners) . Increase student voice and choice, and classroom dialogue. You can see our VM results PATs are good results. Real improvement in well-being noted. "If you're not safe you cannot learn" is Mr. Pugh's philosophy.

6. **Chairs Report:** COSC grant \$ VISA gift cards, parent resources, programs to support multi culture, languages, Indigenous, promoting arts or local issues. Through CBE Visa GC, last year we did activities at an open house (Grade 6, we showcased the School

Council). Mr. Pugh will keep ideas for promoting parent engagement for School Council. Decide this school year, have some time.

7. **New Business:** Some Grade 8 parents present brought to the principal's attention a Science matter. Funding that we approved for \$3000+ for grade 8 dissection of eye balls, Mr. Pugh said all learners SHOULD get to do this activity. Parents on the council would like all the classes to have the opportunity to do this. Mr. Pugh agreed and will look into this matter. Activity Day Friday December 20th. Rachel will come and support. She is looking for volunteers on the Week at a Glance. Classes will rotate through the selfie booth in the planned schedule format so that it's not over crowded. The selfie booth company would like helpers for the props. Leadership classes (Kai and Angela will help run that activity). Rachel brought up that she will donate prizes for the dance.

Meeting adjourned at 7:11 pm.