

MINUTES

Valley View School Council Minutes

November 3, 2015

The meeting was called to order by Shannon Robinson at 6:33 p.m.

In Attendance

April Medwechuk (Co-Chair), Jodie Peloquin (Secretary), Jennifer Boucha (Fundraising), Jenn Gray (Vice Principal), Jason McDonald (Principal), Abby Anderson, Sue Devlin, Kim Kantola, Colleen Randell, Shannon Robinson (Co-Chair)

Regrets

Kristin Kyle (Treasurer) and Kim Boucher

Agenda approved

Minutes from October 5, 2015 approved

April Medwechuk moved to accept the minutes - seconded by Colleen Randell

Principal and Vice Principal Report

Work to Rule

Work to Rule action (teachers) was lifted Monday, November 2, 2015 at midnight. This allowed the teachers to take their classes to swimming. Both Mr. Green and Ms. McLuckie were very happy and said they had great swimmers!

Courtney Jordan would like to do the Christmas Miracle Marathon with her students this year now that the sanctions are lifted. They are doing work in the class with projects of math and graphing. They are contacting 89.5 The Lake as last year was a huge success for her class.

Teachers are stepping up and doing things they weren't allowed due to job action and this is freeing up some time for both Jason McDonald and Jenn Gray.

Hockey Academy

New student joined today and there are currently 28 students going and now teachers are attending too! This is a great program for the students and we will start to see some of the benefits of it in the near future.

Kindergarten Playground

Work is finished for this year, new sod was installed and will be fenced off till frozen then will open up to enlarge the play area for the children.

Lock Down – Hold and Secure

Full Lock Down – kids down and hidden from visibility, everyone in place where they need and should be.

Hold and Secure – kids quiet and settled no one out of classrooms

Info was sent out to the families for the situation that happened in regards to a call coming in that there was a situation in another area and to be safe we needed to do a Hold and Secure for everyone's safety.

Everyone was in the places they needed to be and all was safe and secure, Jason McDonald went to most of the classes to do a debriefing and explain the situation.

Administration made sure front door locked and all other doors locked and portables locked as well. Everything was quick and handled calmly. Good communication with Jason McDonald and Joan Kantola and emergency services.

Sue Devlin talked about considering the fallout these lockdowns/hold and secures have on the children. The anxiety during and after, the nightmares, being scared. Definitely need a de-briefing for the children.

Why do we practise these: to make sure we are safe and no what to do if ever a serious and real situation were to occur.

Unplanned Fire Drill

Kids all safe and out quickly. Wayne from maintenance re-abled the alarm, Jazmin called the fire and 911 before any emergency vehicles were dispatched.

It was handle so well that even the 3 and 4 year olds were out and where they were to be.

Operation By-laws

Shannon Robinson (Co-Chair) put together 4 pages of information that Jason McDonald will put a link on the Parent Council page for google docs so that we can look at, make comments and then we will discuss at the next meeting.

Some information in the document:

Informal Rules, Responsibility, Decision made on Paper, Who we Report to and are Accountable to, Ministry Requirements.

Annual Plan and Budget Review

Outreach and Communication

Communication to have a thriving parent council; recruit parents, elections are done, we do need a teacher rep and that rep needs to be nominated and voted by fellow teachers.

Spaghetti Dinner

Was mentioned that several families were unaware of the event, however it was sent in a home note, on Facebook Valleyview School Page, and the big neon sign out front.

Due to the Work to Rule, Jenn Gray and Jason McDonald were required to do all notes home as teachers weren't allowed due to union and strike procedures. Now that it's lifted, teachers will be able to remind students, send out home notes and put an extra reminder in students' agendas.

It was asked if there were any ideas for other ways to promote our school events and Jason McDonald mentioned that Mike Greaves was going to help with an app. Synervoice is used at Beaver Brae and makes predialed out calls and leaves messages for families re: events, child absent, etc. There was a concern this may be overused and become a nuisance to families? Will be looked into.

Fundraising

Jen Boucha (Fundraising) prepared a letter to go home with all the information on the class Christmas baskets.

We need a date for the draw of the raffle tickets, we decided on printing 5,000 tickets and Jason McDonald is applying for lottery license.

Money raised from these tickets will be substantial and it was discussed some options for the fundraising will go to a FREE year end bbq, FREE swim and ski night, and it will also help us to increase the year end of \$10 per student for activities to \$15 per student!

Hot Lunches

First hot lunch was delivered today; not a big response but our numbers are increasing steadily.

Jenn Gray will be available to any families who do not have internet access to come to the school use a laptop and sign up and order hot lunches, activities, etc.

It's very nice that we are able to order lunch a week ahead of time and pay weekly or per item, makes it more affordable and easier for budgeting!

The system has a security feature and the banking information has to be entered each time you pay for items. This cannot be changed as it's a security feature for safety of banking information not being held online.

All meals are 1 week prior for order – example hot lunch for Tuesday must be order the prior Tuesday EXCEPT pizza is the Friday prior!

Christmas Craft and Bake Sale

We have 26 vendors booked and 3 tables needed for the school bake tables, requesting 30 tables, Jason McDonald will contact and arrange extra tables are here for this event.

Jodie Peloquin will handle all advertising and also has flyers available if anyone is wanting any to hand out at work, neighbourhood or anywhere they can think to get more word out about our school sale.

Silver Collection was voted and agreed upon that Cindy Peloquin from Helping Hands Kenora will sit at the door to accept silver collection.

Raffle

Kim Kantola is in charge of purchasing baskets for the class Christmas baskets/draw and has a \$50 gift card that was donated by Walmart. She hasn't been able to find anything specific and if not will check Canadian Tire. She also has sent a request to Lindsay Evans with Thirty One to see if she can work out a good deal for us to purchase and then the baskets are reusable for the winners after the sale.

Kristin Kyle will contact Donny B and see if they will match the iPad Mini 32G with Walmart and then purchase 2 for our draw. It was agreed and voted upon to spend the extra \$20 to go with the bigger device for educational, games and different apps.

Library Proposal

Shelby Wickham (Librarian) submitted a proposal to school council for funding for The Forest of Reading Program hosted by the Ontario Library Association.

This is a Canadian library program and the categories to be offered to our library are:

Blue Spruce: Grades K-2 (10 books)

Silver Birch: Grades 3-6 (20 books)

Le Prix Peuplier: Grades K-2 French (10 books)

It was voted and agreed upon that we would support this proposal and Kristin Kyle will get a cheque to Shelby prior to November 30, 2015 which is the deadline to order for the January 2016 program.

Yoga Mats

Tracy Morwood, Grade 1 Teacher, is requesting 30 yoga mats for the school to use. Currently Carla Treadway is teaching her class yoga once a week.

It was asked that we would ask Tracy Morwood to give us a written proposal and we would vote on it once received.

Family Engagement Activities

Spaghetti Dinner

Was mentioned that several families were unaware of the event, however it was sent in a home note, on Facebook Valleyview School Page, and the big neon sign out front.

Due to the Work to Rule, Jenn Gray and Jason McDonald were required to do all notes home as teachers weren't allowed due to union and strike procedures. Now that it's lifted, teachers will be able to remind students, send out home notes and put an extra reminder in students' agendas.

It was asked if there were any ideas for other ways to promote our school events and Jason McDonald mentioned that Mike Greaves was going to help with an app. Synervoice is used at Beaver Brae and makes predialed out calls and leaves messages for families re: events, child absent, etc. There was a concern this may be overused and become a nuisance to families? Will be looked into.

Debrief On Dinner

Jennifer Boucha suggested we need more communication between the servers and the cooks. We didn't realize we had more than 1 veggie tray per seating so the first seating only had 1 tray out. While the second had 2. Just more clarification regarding what is supplied and when all is coming.

We had 149 people enjoy the spaghetti dinner between the 2 seatings. Comments back were very happy and well received.

Marie Loewen and Heather Bird catered our main meal with Bonnie St. Croix-Reynard – Heavenly Creations catering our desserts.

Pro Grant Activity

Dr. Rawana from Lakehead University to come and speak on strength based learning. Looking for recognizing strengths, build on strengths and grow some areas in staff and kids.

Jenn Gray spoke with Dr. Rawana and only date available is April 28, 2016. We need to book as the grant is specific to this. Cost is \$3,000 and we have grant for \$1,000. Will need to look at another school joining and sharing in on costs.

Next Family Event

Family swim in November, Jodie Peloquin is calling pool to organize a time and date for the school to ensure we have enough hours and space to accommodate all 231 families. It was suggested we do a 3 hour block and divide the classes into each hour block. Will have more information in next couple days and then will be posted to parent council and then we will put on Facebook page and notes home.

Finance

Kristin Kyle was unable to make meeting this evening and sent her regrets. Jen Boucha had information and said that it would be best if all receipts and info for Kristin were put in an envelope and left in office and Kristin can grab once a week. Less confusion and less chance losing receipts, etc.

Upcoming Costs

Raffle tickets, lottery license \$65, family swim, family ski night.

Potential for Advocacy For Before/After Care – Firefly

There has been a lot of concern brought forward regarding the 2 increases for the Before/After Care Program held at Valleyview through Firefly. First increase has happened; second to happen in January.

It was suggested that we could do a letter to Lisa Doerksen, Senior Director at Firefly.

We discussed if it was a situation that school council felt they should advocate for and it was left in the air – will be added to the next meeting – December 7, 2015.

Next Meeting December 7, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:05 p.m.