

VDPS Council minutes - 28 March 2022

Attendees: Tamar Swerling (Principal), Jacqueline Stone (Vice Principal), Pam Newman, Tali Rosenthal, Carol Taylor, Heather Moskoske, Patrick, Beverley Eyayeni, Rebecca Szeto, Ariella (school Prime minister), Ms Fischer (grade 7/8 teacher)

Apologies: Sarah Limbu, Sabrina Sammy, Nisrin Mehraïn,

Meeting began with Land Acknowledgement

Active School Travel Pilot Program -

Presentation on new pilot program planned in conjunction with VD and City of Vaughan  
Objectives of pilot to reduce local pollution caused by cars and to promote wellbeing of student body - evidence to show daily activity supports students retention of learning.  
Pilot components explained - soft components eg Walking Wednesday, signs, markers around local roads explaining distance to school (already piloted in markham with positive results). Hard components eg Radar message boards  
Next Step: Looking for parent support for data collection and to promote walking to and from school.

Tamar to look into percentage of students using buses and those driven vs walking  
School Principal's Report

Tamar introduced Ms Fisher and (student) Ariella and explained about the new Prime Minister and 5 ministries that students in grades 7/8 are currently introducing to their school experience.

463 students currently enrolled in school - expecting same number next year  
40 students currently online

Spirit wear is available for order on School Cash Online

School student body currently focusing on Black History Month - revisiting interview from Wanda Robson who has since passed.

In March the French Immersion teachers hope to host a Quebec style 'Carnival',

April -Autism Acceptance and the newly elected VDPS student Prime minister hopes to do some fundraising for this cause.

May will be mental health awareness month.

Another new initiative in school this month is the school newspaper edited by student body.  
Other lunchtime clubs/activities hope to resume soon too.

Hot school lunches - Tamar, Heather and Carol to look into costs/local restaurants offering Covid safe individual pizza slices. If hot lunches can't be implemented before last term, Treat Tuesday will be looked into (eg ice cream sales)

KidsKitchen.ca and MR Sub were proposed as potential vendors too.

### Fundraising Update

Council had proposed to do cookie dough sales and cards designed by students but all activities were suspended due to latest lockdown.

Council plan to revisit these opportunities - looking for new volunteer to lead cookie dough sales from 'Terracotta'.

PRO grant application submitted and approved!!

To Do: Council to revisit proposed initiatives and select one or two proposed mental health events to run in conjunction with school's activities in May.

AOB:

Grade 8 Graduation - 'assume to be in person' - t shirts for graduates to be ordered from same place as school spirit wear

Field trips - Local schools ran field trips to senior playground! Similar trips could be fun for our student body. As soon as Tamar gets the go ahead she will reintroduce field trips - must have consent from parents/guardians via school form.

Virtual Scholastic book fair proposed.

THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO ATTENDED THE MEETING!!!