

VIOLA DESMOND PUBLIC SCHOOL – School Council

Minutes 5.10.20

Attendees:

Heather Schreider (Principal), Tamar Swerling (VP), Parents – Rachel Azagury (Co Chair), Sarah Limbu, (Co Chair), Debbie Fung (Co Chair), Cortney Radomski, Heather Moskoske, Pam Newman, June Jones, Lonika Lamba, Sabrina Sammy, Tali Rosenthal, Nan Li

Welcome to Nam and Tamar, both new to council meetings and VDPS.

Agenda

- Welcome and School Update – Heather
- Code of Ethics – Heather/Tamar
- Roles and Responsibilities of Council - Heather, Tamar
- School Council Updates - Rachel
- Future meetings
- Other

School Update

Heather (H) welcomed everyone back and noted that despite the amazing contribution and events planned by school council last year, this year these kinds of events will be on hold as a safe start to the school year for staff and students and the wider school community continues to be paramount.

H thanked the council for their efforts and continues to express respect for the group. She welcomes feedback from the parents as we navigate these new circumstances.

H stated that the children who are attending EVS are very much still considered a part of the VD community and noted that more inclusive communication needs to occur so that all families feel connected at this time.

Tamar (T) spoke about the school's focus on 'safe and kind' in both actions and words.

Code of Ethics and Roles and Responsibilities of School Council

Note: The role of the school council will be reduced this year due to the school's focus on safely settling in students and staff, and their adapted learning environments. It was noted that some staff have not even properly met yet!

Detailed information on code of ethics and roles and responsibilities can be obtained from VD school at your request

The Constitution and by laws need to be created so in times of conflict we have procedures to follow

Fundraising by the school council will largely be on hold unless we can create a safe, inclusive event/activity with an intentional outcome/purpose and that follows board expectations.

2 main roles of school council this year:

- Keep families connected and collect input from all
- Fundraising (if appropriate, based on feedback from families)
- Constitutional affairs

Sub committees will be created to ensure these targets are met.

School Council Executive

All executive positions to remain in place. In addition Courtney and Tali will join the executive team.

Co-Chairs: Rachel, Sarah, Debbie, Courtney

Note Taker: Pam

Treasurer: Tali

School Council Updates

Rachel (R) thanked the school council who did a great job for the 6 months of 2020 the school was open. We made fantastic signature events eg. Halloween dance, Movie night and Kindness week (add in pizza delivery team!)

R noted the school council were hard working, very involved and all events were met with great support and involvement from the whole school community.

Sarah (S) expressed a need for a more inclusive opportunity for the EVS community. She also highlighted the need for additional mental health support for the families of children learning online.

H and T will continue to work with school board staff to offer community outreach support programs for the whole school community.

Other

Goal to have better email communication from the school council. Parents need to know we support them.

Debbie (D) suggested a social/ fundraising concept of a family bake night so all VD students could access an event together.

Courtney (C) added we need a fun event!

School Swag was suggested and a school logo/art/sports team name will be selected by the students both attending VD and EVS asap. There is an issue with proposing a dispatch centre at this time. It was noted that school swag/spirit wear will not make a lot of money for the school but it will unite our school community.

Heather reported the basketball hoops will be put up tomorrow! The Kindergarten will have new playground markings as well as the back of the school but there are regrettably no plans for the kindergarten outdoor space to be revamped at this time. 4 squares and hopscotch are being considered.

Tali suggested nature walks for the students (primarily kindergarten) would be beneficial. Heather reported the grass areas besides the playground are now being utilised and enjoyed.

Action Points:

Heather – Include EVS community with school news, including information about mental health programs/supports

Pam - Sharing of minutes – ensure EVS are included/represented

Chairs – Allocate/ create subcommittees – General, fundraising, by laws,

Courtney – share her by laws with committee

EVERYONE - stay safe

Future Meeting Dates:

DEC 7th

MARCH 1st

JUNE 7th