

Viola Desmond P.S.-School Council Minutes

Thursday, January 17, 2024

7:00 PM-8:00 PM

Attendees:

Farah D. Jodie B., Alina M., Tanya Z., Tonya S.,
Nan, Y., Idris N., Jacqueline S. (VP), Kim W. (P)

Item	Agenda/Discussion/Action Required
1.	<u>Welcome</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Meeting commenced at 7 p.m. (virtual)● Jackie Stone introduced interim Principal Kim Wagner who will be supporting the school until March Break while Principal Ms Swerling is on leave● Kim Wagner expressed appreciation for warm welcome by staff, students and parents and explained how variable weather conditions have resulted in a build-up of ice on the school yard; VP/P and Caretaking staff monitor conditions daily to inform decisions for calling indoor or outdoor recesses; hope for upcoming mild temperatures so we can return to consistent outdoor recesses
2.	<u>Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes</u>
3.	<u>Appreciations</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● <u> </u>Appreciation to Tanya for investigating, selecting and scheduling lunch programs● <u> </u>Appreciation to Ms Costa for her management of hot lunch programs
4.	<u>School Report (Ms. Stone)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● <u> </u>Reviewed schedule of hot lunches Monday (Swiss Chalet), Tuesday/Friday(Kids' Kitchen), Wednesday (Pizza), Thursday (Astoria)● Farah shared that some students do not like the Swiss Chalet lunch and inquired if a change of vendor could be considered for a future round of ordering; past vendors have included Subway (students did not like the

	<p>limited selection offered), Hero Burger (served with fries so is not compliant with Ministry guidelines for healthy school); Tasty (there was some concern with possible allergens (sesame))</p>
6.	<p><u>Lunch Programs (Tanya)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tanya reviewed the lunch programming that is in place and explained that selections were based on the Board's Approved Vendor list; programs take place in the Multipurpose room; gym used constantly for teacher-led extracurricular activities such as team sports Monday: Young Rembrandts Tuesday: Create It Robotics Wednesday: Mad Science (2 groups) Friday: Act One (Beauty and the Beast) • Tanya is in the process of investigating an additional program to offer on Thursdays (e.g., chess)
7.	<p><u>Committees/Proposed Upcoming Event(s)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>End of Year BBQ:</u> parents are interested in planning an end-of-year BBQ to be held on Wednesday, June 12; Jodie and Tonya have reached out to Bakersfield and Carrville School Council Co-chairs to gather information on how they organize their BBQ; discussed options for charging parents an entry fee to help cover costs instead of making it a free VDPS community event; Ms Stone explained that the goal last year of the first ever end-of-year BBQ was community engagement <u>ACTION:</u> Planning meeting regarding BBQ proposal • <u>Movie Night-</u>VDPS has purchased ACF licence; possible Spring date - council (parent) planning committee needed
8.	<p><u>New Business/Discussion</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>School Council Executive Opportunities:</u> • Currently, we have no parents who offered their candidacy in the Fall for executive roles on the School Council; typically, official roles include School Council Chair (or Co-chairs); Secretary and Treasurer; parents who do not occupy these roles but commit to attending School Council meeting on a regular basis are also members • Having a School Council structure with parents assuming executive positions with specific roles and responsibilities promotes efficient and effective communication with the administrative team that can help to move forward planning of school events • Ms Stone shared that VDPS has a School Council Constitution

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More information about School Councils is available on the Board website at yrdsb.ca and in the Board's School Council Handbook <p><u>Parent Reaching Out Grant (PRO Grant)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Councils can apply for a grant for the purpose of organizing parent engagement and information sessions related to the School Improvement Plan (Well-Being and Mental Health, Equity and Inclusivity, Effective Instruction and Assessment). Information about the PRO Grant will be shared once we receive it. <p>See here for more information: Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grants for School Councils York Region District School Board</p>
9.	<p><u>Adjournment</u></p> <p>The meeting was adjourned at 8 p.m.</p>
10.	<p><u>Future Meetings</u></p> <p>Wednesday, February 21 (7:00-8:00 pm)</p>