

## School Council meeting- March 1, 2023- Minutes

### **Principal's Report:**

VDPS has been working on several Equity & Inclusivity initiatives

1. Black history and beyond:
  - Every class selected a black person of excellence to research. Each class will display their learning on their hallway bulletin board. Students will explore each other's displays.
2. Holocaust Education
  - Power of One display
  - Every day Heroes
  - Virtual Author Visit with Kathy Kacer
  - Simon's Story- Grade 3 – 6
  - Tour Bus for Humanity- June 4-8
  - Lessons and Legacies of the Holocaust for grade 7 and 8

Staff is engaging in professional learning:

- Well being and mental health
- Equity/Diversity
- Literacy
- Math

Programs are running during recess on weekly basis

- Arts
- Athletics
- Extra curricular programs

Kindness week

- Every day of the week students have been engaging in different kindness activities
- Students are creating kindness rocks to display at the front of the school
- Buddy activities- older students matched with younger students to work on a project

### **Chair Report:**

Authentic Parent Engagement

- Sarah (VDPS Council Chair) attended a School Council Forum Workshop on Authentic parent engagement
- There are Four equally important key areas in Authentic Parent engagement

1. **INFORM**- School informs parents/caregivers and families through newsletters, google classroom updates and report cards.
  2. **CONSULT**- School asks for parents/caregivers and families feedback on lunch options for students, grade 8 grad trips, date preference for council meetings
  3. **COLLABORATE**- School works with parents/caregivers and families to co-develop a series of family evenings, co-plan process for students, educators and families to discuss achievement, and co-construct classroom practices.
  4. **INVOLVE**- School involves parents through supervision on excursions, participating in class lesson to do activity i.e. share stories with students and educators, utilize parents/ caregivers transferable skills.
- Spoke with the YRDSB Equity and Inclusion Coordinators Palvi and Oksana. They have offered us a 3 session module to learn more about Authentic parent engagement, the many ways parents can learn to support their children, school and community and how we can apply methods to our school. Ms. Swerling has suggested inviting neighbouring schools to join workshop.

#### Kindness Rocks:

- Kindness Rocks was an initiative sponsored by VDPS Parent Council for Kindness Week
- The activity was a great success
- Council is hopeful to continue this activity through the years moving forward

#### Teacher's Appreciation Brunch:

- The teacher's appreciation brunch was very well received by teacher's last year
- Council hopes to express their gratitude for the teacher's by hosting another teacher's appreciation brunch
- Teacher's appreciate healthy options 😊

### **Fundraising Sub-committee Report:**

#### Box of Cards:

- The Box of Cards Fundraiser was very successful. Thank you to all our parents for supporting our school. We have raised \$1000 for the school through this fundraiser.

#### Krispy Kreme:

- The Krispy Kreme Fundraiser is running now until March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Krispy Kreme Donuts can be purchased on School Cash Online until March 10<sup>th</sup> and will be available for pick up at the school on March 26<sup>th</sup> 1-3 pm.
- So far, about 50 boxes have been sold

### Movie Night:

- Council's last fundraiser for the year will be a potential Movie Night
- Ms. Swerling offered possible dates of Wednesday April 26, 2023 or Wednesday May 3, 2023
- Council to review plans

### Grade 8 Fundraiser:

- Ms. Swerling reports that the Grade 8's will be holding a Fundraiser to raise funds for their Graduation & Trip
- Council is happy to support the Grade 8's and help advertise their fundraiser to VDPS parents

### **Lunch Programs:**

#### Lunch Activities:

- Lunch programs have been a great success and completely sold out.
- Cooking class will renew at the end of March- a new flyer will be sent out to parents
- Robotics Class will renew- flyer will be sent out to parents
- Chess is ending at the End of April
- Theater Program: Encanto was a great success. The theater program will also be returning Mid April to June. The Greatest Showman is the play of choice for this time around.

#### Lunch Vendors:

- Kids kitchen- Tuesdays and Fridays
- Pizza- Wednesday
- Subway- Thursday
- Working on another Vendor for Mondays as Osmows will no longer be available

### **Finance Report:**

- No significant updates
- Last report confirmed that a total of \$2, 279.18 have been raised through fundraising prior to the Box of Cards fundraiser
- Box of Cards raised another approximately \$1000

## **End of Year Party:**

### Vote

- Council voted in favour of moving ahead with an end of the year summer event

### Date

- still to be determined
- Last two weeks of June- there are no restrictions- can be held on any date. No weekends.

### Budget/Funding

- Pam has spoken with other schools and has learned that Nellie/Anne Frank/Baythorn is using funds raised throughout the year to fund the event
- Ms. Swerling reports that at this time, Funds already raised are not available to be used towards the End of Year Party as it was not included in the Fundraising Goals stated at the start of the year
- Ms. Swerling reports that Council can take a vote on using a portion of Krispy Kreme Sales towards the end of year party. Communication would need to be sent out to parents and portion of sales made after the communication can be used towards the end of year party.
- Movie Night Fundraiser can be run to support cost of End of Year Party as long as parents are informed that this is the purpose of the fundraiser
- Council can charge for food ahead of time
- Silent Auction is okay to run
- Try to use activities that are free/donated
- Can charge a wristband/admission fee to raise funds

### Sub-committees Needed

- Council would like to form subcommittees for the event to split up the tasks as it is a large undertaking
- Interested parents, please reach out to Ms. Sweling and/or Council Chairs: Pam and Sarah
- Parents who expressed interest during today's meeting include:
  - Jessica C
  - Nan Yang
  - Andreea Natapov
  - Karen (from council)
  - Nasrin M
  - Lu (Gemma's mom)
  - Tali (from council)
- Ms. Swerling will share the above parents' emails with Council
- Council to consider putting out request for parents help in Weekly

### Food

- Pam has learned that permits are not required

- Ms. Swerling suggests that food can be sold ahead of time on school cash online. Tickets can be handed out to parents to collect their food at the event.
- Food trucks can have some meals available for day of purchases as well.
- If interested in joining Food Truck Subcommittee, please reach out to Pam or Sarah
- Some options
  - BBQ
  - Asian Fusion
  - Ice Cream Truck
  - Cotton Candy/popcorn carts

### Auction baskets

- Ms. Swerling reports that Raffles are not possible without a Gaming License. However, a silent Auction can be held without a Gaming License.
- Pam suggests that each class can create a themed basket that is filled with small items worth \$5 to \$10 each to then Auction off to raise funds for the Event.
- If interested in joining the Auction Baskets sub committee, please reach out to Pam and Sarah
  - Themes are needed plus instruction, distribution, collection of baskets
  - We need to reach out to wider community for any donations of larger auction items/ services from parents/local businesses eg sports tickets, training services, cleaning services - anything local community can donate to generate funds for school
  - A letter from school principal will be required to validate that donations are going to a school event

### DJ/dancers

- K.I.D.S. Vendor- \$800 – this includes the DJ, dancers and prizes
- VIBE- willing to support our event for free- need to look into what this would include
- Open to parent volunteers

### Entertainment

#### Carnival Games:

- Superior games is an approved vendor by YRDSB but pricey
  - Inflatable Maze is \$1200
  - 3 person rock climbing wall is \$1000
- Spiniko is another approved vendor that can provide carnival games. Games are \$400 to \$600 each
  - Because we are limited in funds, we would need to charge parents for these games ahead of time

#### Sports/Other Games:

- Ms. Swerling suggests to elicit the help of high school student volunteers and grade 8's to run some activities /games
- Coach J has expressed interested in offering his services for free
- Graffiti wall

- Face painting

#### Photos:

- Photo booth
- Back drop

#### Décor

- Need posters and other décor
- Jessica C has offered to donate a balloon display for the event- Thank you Jessica

#### **Last items**

- Lunch time supervision
  - 6 lunch assistance in the hallways supervising when children are eating
  - Play leaders
  - Movies

#### **Fundraising goals for next year**

- Suggestion to add these to fundraising goals next year:
  - painting logo in the gym
  - end of year party