



VCHS Parent Council Meeting

Tuesday November 21th, 2023

6:00 PM

In Person & Virtual

People & Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that we are on Treaty 6 territory and the traditional homeland of the Métis Nation. These are the meeting grounds, gathering place, and travelling route to the Cree, Nakota Sioux, Dene, Saulteaux, Blackfoot, and Métis. We acknowledge all the many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit whose footsteps have marked these lands for centuries.

Attendance – (in person) Sabrina Komarniski, Randy Footz, Brandon Salzyn
(virtual) Katie Perepeletza, Michelle Gladys, Elenita, Wayne

Parents: Michelle, Sabrina, Katie, Elenita, Wayne

Staff: Brandon, Sabrina

Trustee: Randy Footz

Others: Minute taker is Michelle Gladys

1. Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement

Brandon called the meeting to order at 6:06 pm

2. Review and Approval of the Agenda

- no changes brought forward

Sabrina made a motion to approve the agenda. Katie seconded. Approved.

3. Approval of the Minutes – from September 26, 2023

Katie motioned to approve the minutes from the last meeting. Seconded by Sabrina. Approved.

4. Student Council Report – Branden Salzyn

- Current events, we have a number of upcoming theme days planned, including a matching day next Wednesday. To create some more consistency we are aiming to place theme/spirit days every other Wednesday.
- Looking back to October we did a Halloween spirit week with numerous Halloween activities scattered throughout the week such as a scavenger hunt with prizes and a Halloween themed cookie decorating station available to all students during the lunch hour.
- We have started to plan ahead for the Christmas season, and are working on finalizing our ideas for a spirit week right before the break. As well as this we are currently accepting donations for the Vegreville Food Bank and Socks for Santa. Donation bins for both are divided by grade and are set up inside the office for students to deposit their donations. By December 8th the grade with the highest number of donations will receive a prize.



VCHS Parent Council Meeting

- Looking ahead we have plans to create a short and fun video featuring the executive student council and our grade representatives. Our plan is to have this video played in the morning by teachers allowing for a larger number of students to have awareness of the student council, hopefully making students more willing to provide us with feedback and suggestions. On top of this we have talked about making more videos to create awareness about large upcoming events or ideas we have planned.
- On the topic of large events we have started the early steps of planning for a school dance in the spring. A survey is intended to be sent out by the end of the week to all students with a few short questions allowing us to gauge the interest and concerns of students regarding a potential school dance. Some ideas have been thrown around about potentially fundraising for the dance, as well as sending out another survey in the future to have students vote on a theme.
- Aside from all that fun stuff we are also actively looking to create a space for students to share their ideas, feedback and concerns with us. Whether it is a physical dropbox or an online survey the goal is to make the student body feel more involved with the school.

5. Trustee Report – Randy Footz

- Thank you very much for the invitation to attend the Awards night on December 1. I would very much like to attend but I have a previous commitment that I must attend.
- This month's Board meeting has been re-scheduled to November 30. While my normal report would cover information from 2 meetings, today's report will deal only with October's board meeting.
- Each year the Superintendent and Board make a point of visiting schools within the division. On October 17, trustees visited École Parc Élémentaire, Fort Saskatchewan Christian, Fort Saskatchewan Elementary, Fort Saskatchewan High and Next Step Fort Saskatchewan.
- The Division has requested funding from Alberta Education to add two new modular classrooms to Ardrossan Elementary; add two new modular classrooms to South Pointe School; and to demolish and remove two aging modular classrooms and reclaim the affected area of the schoolyard at Westboro Elementary in preparation for the 2024-25 school year.
- We are hopeful that a decision from the province will come before the end of the 2023-24 school year.
- The Division's Unallocated Reserve, which EIPS maintains to cover emergent issues, manage price fluctuations and stabilize funding in the future currently sits at \$3.63 million.
- Enrollment at EIPS schools has increased. As of Sept 30, 17,760 students are registered within EIPS—an increase of 300 students from fall 2022.
- On October 19 Board Chair Cathy Allen and I attended the Vegreville and District Chamber of Commerce meeting. We discussed the 10 Year division plan with regards to the possible amalgamation of A.L. Horton and the Composite Jr/Sr High Schools.



VCHS Parent Council Meeting

- The last 2 days trustees from 63 school boards including 2 boards from Lloydminster and 2 from Yellowknife attended the Annual Fall General Meeting in Edmonton. Topics discussed and debated:
 - fully funded, full-time (950 hours) Kindergarten
 - valid teaching certificate from other Canadian jurisdictions
 - remove the maximum limit for operating reserves for school boards
 - review the practice of administering provincial high school diploma examinations
 - funding for Dual Credit programming
 - funding for and access to community-based service agencies that schools collaborate with Glubish, the MLA from Strathcona- Sherwood Park when their schedules permit.

6. Principal Report – Principal Brandon Salzyn

- **School Activities:**
 - Parent teacher interviews (Oct 24 & 26) - Parent engagement and sharing details about student success.
 - ELAA (Educational Liaison Association of Alberta) Post secondary fair was held at the school on Oct 27
 - Halloween - Halloween activities around the school
 - Creating culture and engaging students: find a spider, costume contest, different categories
 - Grade 7 Band concert on Nov 2 - Mr. Johnson is trying to get a Musical Theatre club started for students interested in putting on a musical.
 - Remembrance Day - Fully run by students and did a great job.
 - How respectful our student were during the ceremony
 - Quarter 2 has started so Jr. high students would be attending different options.
 - RAP Information Nigh Nov 14
 - Bullying Awareness and Prevention week - Activities around the school around inclusivity
 - Smile cookies
 - GSA scavenger hunt
 - Trivia questions in the classroom to promote discussion around bullying and prevention
 - both in class and independently.
 - Graduation - Student Grad meeting happened on Oct 25 for grads interested in helping plan the day of Graduation.
 - Grad photos are coming up next week (Nov 28 & 29).
 - Emergency Preparedness – Lockdown drill today
 - Grade 9 Vaccines on Nov 29



VCHS Parent Council Meeting

- December 5th guest speaker - Mr. Mali, another administrator from our school district is coming to do some learning with our classes around race and racism bringing his personal experiences.
- December
 - Socks for Santa and Food Bank - Student driven event to bring in socks to the school that will be donated to local agencies that help support families through the holiday season.
 - School wide Holiday lunch is set for Dec 19.
- **RESET Room Data:**
 - 285 visits since Oct 1
 - Students do not come to school coping and the reset room helps them get back to learning.
- **January Exams:**
 - Last day of Sr. High Classes is Jan 19
 - Diploma schedule is set and on our website calendar
 - Working through common exam dates and will make sure those are communicated out once finalized.
- **Assurance Review Tomorrow morning**
 - Each year, students, parents, and staff provide feedback about the school and education.
 - Our opportunity to have conversations around how we can make improvements.
- **Athletics:**
 - Volleyball is just finishing up
 - Our Sr. Girls had a home tournament which we brought home the gold.
 - Sr teams both lost out at the zone tournament this last weekend.
 - Jr A girls, Jr B Boys, and Girls are just in the final games for the season.
 - Basketball is starting soon
 - Tryout information is coming out starting with Sr. High as their league gets start before the Jr. High

7. **Teacher/Athletics Report** – (included above)

8. **Fundraising Foundation Report** – Sabrina Komarniski

Casino account: \$10,477.48 General account: \$3,778.69

- Nothing new to report. No planned fundraisers coming up

9. **COSC Representative Report** – Tara Dumont

- Nothing to report at this time

10. **Old Business**

- None



VCCHS Parent Council Meeting

11. New Business

- None

12. Next Meeting – Tuesday, January 23 @6pm – hybrid model

13. Motion to adjourn meeting:

Sabrina made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:38pm