

Vermilion Elementary School Council AGM Minutes
October 19, 2020 via Google Meets

In attendance (virtually): Mrs. Sheila Doherty, Mr. Calvin Anhorn, Mr. Jim King, Susan McCulley, Danielle Eriksen, Darcie Maier, Kathy Crowe, Brandon Tupper, Kate Forbes, Rochelle Horne, Tabitha Dykstra

Meeting commenced at 7:05pm

Board Report:

- Celebration Day did not happen the same as usual due to COVID
- Enrollment through the division has increased but some positions were cut due to a change in funding model
- Thank you to parents and everyone for helping to make school reentry successful
- Vermilion Outreach School has moved to JR Robson, they have their own entryway and portion of the building. BTPS is hoping to hold some type of Grand Opening so that everyone can see it.
- Government of AB has provided the division with \$1.6 million to help pay for COVID related costs incurred to keep schools and buses safer.

Admin Report:

- Long service awards were awarded earlier this month. Mrs. Long and Mrs. Bast each received 15 year awards, Mrs. Seymour received her 10 year, Mrs. Page received her 20 year & Mr. Haslehurst received his 25 year award. Congratulations.
- This year's enrollment is on par with what was expected. 12 students' families chose to try the Online Home Learning, 6 of which have returned to VES in class since. Returning to in class learning is an option available.
- Ms. Emily Venance is a student teacher, working in grade 3 with Mrs. Tomkins.
- Re-entry has gone fairly smoothly. Mr. Anhorn and Mrs. Doherty outlined some of the many measures in place such as staggered recesses, 2 cohorts include division 1 and division 2 keep their distances, separate entrances assigned, sanitizing happening throughout the day not just after school anymore, limiting non-essential visitors in the building. They thank those who take their time to fill out the questionnaire upon entering the school.
- Teachers are preparing and planning to be able to more effectively deliver online learning for students who need to stay home while ill. The extended absences will unfortunately lead to some learning gaps.
- Microwaves are still not in use. This decision for October was made by VES staff whereas in September it was made by BTPS. The staff will continue to reassess this.
- Many things are happening like before, just needing to alter the way they're done.
- There was no Muffin Morning/Meet the Teacher this year due to COVID.
- Staff are trying to work out how the Mentorship and Service programs can happen.
- Halloween - a letter will be coming home this week outlining rules and plans.
- Parent teacher interviews will be done via phone call this year.
- Still exploring what the Remembrance Day service and Christmas Concert will look like as the students cannot gather as one big group nor can parents attend. Ideas from parents are welcomed.

- Staff are and will try to post more on Facebook to share what is happening to help parents and the community feel more engaged.
- Hot Lunch - the Hot Lunch Society and admin have been trying to find a way to make it happen again. If it does happen, it will look different due to needing to have less volunteers.
- VES has ordered 69 new Chromebooks and a new cart to replace older models as well as to help lessen the amount of time taken to sanitize the ones that are shared (there will be less sharing). The online learning that happened from March to June highlighted the need for the Division 1 students to improve in their computer skills.
- Budget-the funding model from the Government of Alberta has changed as of last spring. Funding will be based on prior years of enrollment instead of current enrollment. VES will have more than \$100,000 less than the previous year, and there will be more reductions next year.
- Alberta Health Services will no longer work with schools providing Rehab Services such as Speech and Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy or Physical Therapy unless a student specifically needs it for medical purposes (not developmental support/needs). In the past, parents could access these services at the Health Unit or through the school but neither is an option now.
- Program Unit Funding which has been funding for early intervention for children in Preschool to Kindergarten, has been eliminated in public school kindergartens. This will be a big impact.
- The Breakfast Program is up and running but has changed. The Nutrition grant that has funded it, has been cut by 2/3rd's. It is being served/offered in the classrooms instead of from the kitchen to prevent crowding in the hallway. Mrs. Moses is still responsible for the program and gets the food ready for teachers to distribute. There have been some donations made to the program.
- Supervision - due to the staggered recesses and keeping cohorts apart, there is now no supervised recess time before school. Staff have more recess supervision now than before due to the increase in the number of recesses.
- There is a PD day this Friday, teachers and support staff will be partaking in at VES
- Scholastic Book Fair is a very popular pastime at VES but this year, it cannot happen in the library. There will be an Online Format from October 19 to 30th.

Elections:

- Darcie nominated Danielle to be Chair. Rochelle seconded it, Danielle accepted.
- Danielle nominated Rochelle to be Co-Chair, Katrina seconded it, Rochelle agreed.
- Kate volunteered to be Secretary, Darcie seconded it.
- Darcie agreed to stay as Treasurer, no one opposed.

Bouquets:

- Teachers and Admin reaching out to connect with students daily.
- Staff wearing neat/cool masks which makes the situation more tolerable.
- Big thank you to Kathy for being on Parent Council for so long!

Next Meeting: To be announced.