



Viola Desmond Elementary School Parent Council Meeting Agenda Thursday November 7, 2024



Achievement

Engagement

Equity

Item	Discussion	Action
In Attendance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School staff: J. Welsh (vice principal), L. Hagan (staff), Jordan Allum (Music) Parents: Helena Urukalo, Chad Giroux, Amanda Lloyd (chair), Stacey Mater, Nancy Silva Khan, Ksenija Rodic, Jennifer Mitchell, Mariola Pachura-Allum (volunteer in nutrition program), Milja, Nevena Simic (secretary) 	
Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introductions Land Acknowledgment 	J. Welsh
Minutes from Last Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student population increased; 37 classes VDES = high priority school Full Time Math facilitator supporting Gr 3 & 6 Full Time Reading Specialist supporting Primary classes STEM – Robotics club -Junior, Intermediate 50 new computers for Gr 8 classes and their laptops will go to Gr 7; Gr 7 iPads go to lower grades 	J. Welsh
Principal's Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acadiance – literacy level assessment (teachers undergoing training); UFLI Reading Program used through to Gr 8, Haggerty Reading Program used for Primary as well, Empower Program ongoing for reading intervention. Math facilitator creating tracker for teachers to use; MathUp program interactive Moving to small group instruction as a focus for providing purposeful, intentional programming (flexible groupings) Learning Resource Teachers – supporting early literacy Treaty Approach to Indigenous education 	J. Welsh

	<p>e.g., Wampum belt that school was given to VDES is being shared in classrooms</p>	
<p>Staff Report</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly updates posted on VDES website vs monthly newsletter – council endorses weekly updates. • Math and Literacy supports at home: looking for ideas to bring in parents/community (e.g., recipe challenge) • Volleyball tournaments ongoing • Jr Choir (Gr2-4) • Jr. Swim Team won 4 ribbons at their Swim Meet. • Math Academy – after school programs running to support Gr. 6 – 8 students with Math • Student Ambassador Club – focus on inclusion and supporting school-wide initiatives (making wreathes for Remembrance Day) • Jordan (music Gr 4+): went to Glendale for Hamilton Philharmonic and tied in Social Emotional Learning • VDES Choir restarted (performing on Monday for Remembrance Day) • Mary Poppins production is currently in the works with Co-Op students from Glendale directing VDES students in the <i>Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious</i> number • Gr. 6 doing drums in Music • Eco Team - 40 kids; split into two groups - Gr 4-5: recycling while Gr 6+ are applying to Eco Schools 	<p>L. Hagan</p>
<p>Issues</p>	<p>Nutrition Program looking for more help</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monday – Friday: 8am – help with preparation and delivery to classrooms required • Looking for funding opportunities (donations) <p>Volunteers?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to increase student trip opportunities (Trips are expensive and there often aren't enough volunteers.) • How to inform school of completed Police Check • ACTION: information will be shared in the next weekly update regrading the process to acquire a Vulnerable Sector Screening. <p>Traffic Flow</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - City of Hamilton Director Transportation Parking and Planning – ACTION: Stacy M. spoke with 	<p>All</p>

	<p>Calloway who recommended doing a walk-about; waiting for <i>when</i> that may happen (Mr. Giroux volunteered to help.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Driving up fire lane = major problem - DailySchoolRoute.org 	
Fundraising	<p>Pro-Grant –\$1000 for parent engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Previous years have used to put together literacy and numeracy kits (Question, how might we evaluate “engagement”?) - PRO Grant Application due November 22 - Suggestion to go forward with previous ‘kits’ method but ongoing discussion needed to address engagement with other activities that bring families into the school. <p>Other ideas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Newcomer program – info with translators - Homework support - Fun nights at school – fair, art night - Cooking classes online <p>Nutrition Program needs funds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council supports use of School Cash online for platform to ask for donations. <p>Terra Cota (cookies) – ACTION: Amanda looking into what is required</p> <p>Kernels – popcorn sales during the week like pizza day (model after Candy Gram) – ACTION: Amanda looking into it</p> <p>Additional ideas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Little Cesar night - ACTION: Amanda looking into it - Recipe book club – ACTION: Amanda looking into it 	J. Welsh
Next Meeting	Monthly : next meeting January 16 @430, March, May	
Agenda for Next Meeting	<p>See Action items above</p> <p>Agenda items must be forwarded to the office one week prior to the meeting date.</p>	

All are welcome to attend! Thank you for supporting our school!