

Valley Creek School Council Annual Report 2024-2025

email to | Board of Trustees at boardoftrustees@cbe.ab.ca

mail to | Board of Trustees, Calgary Board of Education, 1221 – 8 Street S.W. Calgary, AB T2R 0L4

School: Valley Creek School

Reporting Year: 2024-2025

Executive: *List the members who held positions as officers in the past year*

Principal	Principal Helen Colbourne (on-leave). Acting Principal(s) Anne Markovich (September to January) and Sandra Martin (February to June).
Chair	Shelley Wiart
Vice Chair	Sarah Parchewsky
Teacher	Guillaume LaRoche and Meghan LaBarbera
Community	Adwoa Savage, Hidden Valley Community Association
Secretary	Celeste McIlhargey
Treasurer	Lisa Antichow
Student Rep (if applicable)	N/A
Other	Fundraising Director: Annika Triantafillou
Other	Casino Director: Angie King

Meeting Dates: *List the dates of regular school council meetings*

- **September 17th**
- **October 15th (Annual General Meeting)**
- **November 19th**
- **December (No Meeting)**
- **January 21**
- **February 18**
- **March 18**
- **April 15**
- **May 20**
- **June 17**

Date of First School Council Meeting of the Year: September 16, 2025

School Council Activities – Summarize the major activities of the past year and provide an overview of activities or initiatives planned for the next year

September: The VCS Council members attended the Meet the Teacher night. We advertised and recruited for our council. We updated VCS Council Operating Procedures and Society Bylaws. Started a VCS parent council and society monthly newsletter.

October: We held our AGM and elected our new executive members. Hosted Shelly Qualiteri & Associates Counselling & Coaching for a Depression & Anxiety workshop. Annika organized our Fundscrip fundraiser and dispersed the cards in November. Hosted a coffee cart for the teachers and administrators and organized the Parents Care Potluck for parent-teacher conferences. Our VCS Cooperating Society was awarded the Amazon Web Services ChangeX InCommunities grant for \$6000 for Truth and Reconciliation activities with Indigenous artists.

November: Education Director Melody Pelling and Trustee Laura Hack attended our meeting to discuss system-wide funding and infrastructure issues.

Advocacy: Wiart, S. (2024, November 29). *It's time to step up: Join your school council and shape the future of education*. Calgary Herald. <https://calgaryherald.com/opinion/columnists/its-time-to-step-up-join-your-school-council-and-shape-the-future-of-education#comments-area>

December: No Meeting. Started organizing a society funded after-school drama program.

January: We hired Aliza Sarian as the instructor for our new after-school drama program, which launched on January 26th to overwhelming demand, with seventy students enrolling. We also hosted a coffee cart to show appreciation for our teachers and administrators.

February: Sarah Parchewsky organized a Little Caesar's Pizza fundraiser and dispersed the product.

March: Our updated Society bylaws were officially registered with the Registrar of Alberta Corporations.

Creative Pathways to Reconciliation Education: On March 18th, Tanya Snow delivered a virtual presentation to Grades 5 and 6, reading from her book *You Come from the Stars*.

April: Celebrated Charger Connection Week, including a school dance and concession organized by our council.

Creative Pathways to Reconciliation Education: Chantelle Pappianok lead a beading circle for students, fostering hands-on learning and cultural engagement. The beading circle took place on April 16, April 23, May 7, and May 14, from 2:45 to 3:45 PM.

May: We met with VCS administration to plan the Council Events and Fundraisers 2025-26 (attached). Creative Pathways to Reconciliation Education: Hosted Tamara Cardinal's reconciliation presentation on Orange Shirt Papermaking, May 13, from 8:00-2:30 PM. Hosted Education Director Melody Pelling and received confirmation of administration transitions for 2025–2026.

Advocacy: Wiart, S. (2025, May 10). *Opinion: Teachers deserve better, and so do Alberta families*. Calgary Herald. <https://calgaryherald.com/opinion/columnists/opinion-teachers-deserve-better-and-so-do-alberta-families>

June: Our after-school drama program concluded with two successful community productions held on June 4th and 5th. We completed the impact reporting for the AWS ChangeX InCommunities grant. Confirmed our list of council priorities for the 2025-2026 school year which include: supporting physical education field trips and bussing, and two after school extracurricular programs, science fair club and drama club grades 5/6 and grades 7-9.

Advocacy: Globe and Mail interview with education reporter, Dave McGinn on June 18 about classroom overcrowding.
