

Valley Creek School Council Meeting Minutes – March 17th, 2026

Current Executive

Chair: Sarah Parchewsky	Key Communicator: VACANT	Assistant Principal: Stephanie Buchan
Vice-chair: Krista Delorme	Acting Principal: Sandra Martin	Teacher Rep: ROTATING
Secretary: Celeste McIlhargey	Assistant Principal: Meghan LaBarbera	Members-at-large:

Attendees:

Lisa Antichow, Celeste McIlhargey, Sarah Parchewsky, Krista Delorme, Datu, Ashley Thiessen, Kirsten Ledergerber, Shelley Wiart, Raye-Lynn Graham, Annika Triantifillou, Danna Weatherbee

Sandra Martin (Acting Principal)

Meghan La Barbera (Assistant Principal)

Stephanie Buchan (Assistant Principal)

Teacher rep – Jenna Hunt, Nally Souraya, Michelle Nichol-Tanner

Guests – None

- 1) Meeting called to order at 6:33 pm BY Sarah. Welcome and Introductions.

- 2) Agenda reviewed. Motion to approve agenda by Celeste Seconded by Krista and February 17th, 2026 meeting minutes by Shelley Seconded by Lisa All in Favour. Approved.

- 3) Administration & School updates by Principal (Sandra)
 - a) Admin Updates
 - Update from Stephanie as a continuation from last parent council meeting regarding 2026 School Planning (School Budget and Fees)

- Purpose to share information about budget + fees, gather feedback
- Small video about school planning
- Our school received just over \$5.6 million to support our plan. The budget supports the plan – it doesn't drive the plan
- 75% of the budget is dedicated to staffing and for our school it is actually a lot more than that
- Our staffing budget is roughly \$5.4 million, leaving around \$200,000 to supplies and other resources
- There is a report on how fees are collected and spent from last year available on the website
- Fees were roughly \$75,000 – expenses were roughly \$80,000 the shortfall is paid for in the budget
- As part of planning, we consult with families on activities that may include fees – field trips, in-school activities, sports teams, CTF
- Fees, Fundraising and School budget all work together
- Our goal is to balance meaningful student experiences with affordability for families
- Feedback requested from parents via separate link
 - o Which types of activities or experiences are most important for your child's learning?
 - o To what extent do you feel the activities our school offers support your child's learning?
 - o How manageable are current school fees for your family?
- *Q: The report to parents from the fees from last year, the expenses exceeded the revenue. Revenue is the fees, correct? How do the expenses exceed the revenue? As a generalization (it is more case-by-case) if families cannot pay the fee, the school absorbs the cost of the fees, there may also be unforeseen costs*
- Next steps – there will be a summary of feedback posted to the website by March 20th and a meeting evaluation summary by March 30
- The ones from February will not be found because there wasn't a large enough dataset to guarantee anonymity

- Our e-sports team attended a tournament this past weekend and now have found another tournament in May (both tournaments were free)
 - Students had a lot of positive feedback

b) Funding Requests

- Jenna Hunt:
 - Big thank you for Alien In-line skating – children really enjoyed it
 - Athletic banquet is coming up – will need volunteers eventually
 - Requested Alien In-line for 26/27 school year - \$4 per student so \$6400
 - Replacement equipment that has been damaged – there is a long list (soccer balls, footballs, pinnies, lacrosse sticks, ringette sticks, Omnikin balls – none of this equipment is new to the school but would replace stuff that has been damaged)(the full list can be made available on request)
 - Cross-country jerseys
 - There isn't many leftover shirts because online ordering changed, and every other team has a uniform – we would like our runners to look like a team
- Michelle Nichol-Tanner:
 - Grade 9 Farewell – there is \$700 for this year available
 - Friday June 12th – 12:45 pm – 4:00 pm – open doors, short ceremony, meet and greet and then a dance
 - There is a field trip on June 18th to Calaway park
 - There are 50 more grade 9s than last year so they are asking for more money for the “treats” at the meet and greet
 - Shared total for treats from last year - \$388.50
 - This year the DJ will cost a total of \$656.25 so there is a small discrepancy
 - Looks like \$200 extra would cover the difference
 - *Question from parent: the prices are likely higher now, have you looked into the pricing?* It will likely cost more now
- Nally Souraya:
 - No request for money at this time
 - Wanted to give an update on Chargers Connection Week
 - We are planning for April 24th – May 1st – there is already an approval for \$1700 for this

- There were challenges with the food last year so we wanted to get involved with the food planning – no food in the gym – prefer no open cans of pop
- This would be on Thursday April 30th
- Sports Day is Monday April 27th and we are trying to do some outdoor/indoor hybrid situation – is it possible to secure donations? Can parent council help with this?
- *Q: Is the DJ already booked?* Yes, we are using the same DJ as last time, and there was a small discount for being a repeat client
- *Q: Do you think you needed more volunteers, or what would you add?* Being in the gathering area was good, but we need more supervision on the inside of the gym – we expect there will be more students in the gym, but this will be up to the teachers.
- Lap top cart – we ordered 56 new Chromebooks at the start of the year and we need one where it charges while it is on the cart. The total cost is \$3300 and will fit 40 Chromebooks. This cart would service a whole class.

c) Admin Questions

- Questions from ahead of time: can the leadership group use the “expired” candy – Ms Mulji will use the candy for a different fundraiser
- Who maintains the sewing machines moving forward? The school will be in charge of fixing them moving forward
- Mother Earth activity – Shelley + Sandra connected on March 17th to confirm numbers but no date was picked
- Can teachers come monthly to share learning/work? We will try to invite teachers so that someone can come each meeting
- Chargers Connection Council met again – they completed a survey for all the students – the next step is for them to share that information back to their peers and identify short-term and long-term goals
- Complexity funding: our school will receive some complexity funding – this was shared with the school late last week. Admin needs to decide quickly how to use the money. We will receive funding for 1 FT teacher and 2 Educational Assistants.
 - We want to use one of our teachers to be the complexity team leader, and then back-fill their role

- She will share a link to find more information on the Complexity funding in the chat
- *Q: What's the update on the principal for next September?* Sandra would like to know what the plan is for next week as her contract is complete on March 27th. Our new Area Director Andrea has been working with Human Resources to identify an extension but everyone is still in limbo. We have reached out several times to Andrea and she has reached out to HR, but there is some kind of gap at that level. Helen still has this position for another 2 years from the date that she started her leave but the dates themselves are unclear– Andrea is also looking for the next steps and is pushing for consistency. She is not sure if the process will allow that. It's unclear who you would speak to about this but Andrea and Laura will attend in April so there is an opportunity to share it with them at that time.
- *Q: Can you share the information on the complexity team with parents in the admin newsletter? What do they do, what is their focus?* Before the complexity team became a thing, we identified the need for more student support for some individuals, focused on literacy + numeracy. Students in groups of 4-5 would be pulled out every second day to work with a teacher on a very specific skill to enhance knowledge base. The aim is to close their learning gap over time. It's a wide range of students with needs. The complexity team (based on government funding) is now an addition on top of this.
- *Q: Outstanding amounts from previous motions clarifications:*
 - Calgary Opera Tour – this is closed
 - In-line Skating – we put down a deposit but there is an open amount of \$5800 – we pay it from our account and then we bill it back to Council but sometimes it takes awhile to go through the school's system
 - Band Clinics – this is likely complete – but there is only \$340 remaining from the original \$3000 she was approved for from Council
- *Q: How will the budget be impacted by not having Grade 5's come over?* We don't have a lot of information beyond the projected amount of students for next year – it is roughly the same number of students so even though we lose Grade 5s it evens out. Budget is typically based per pupil

d) Guest speakers

- None
- 4) Hidden Valley School Liaison Report (Raye-Lynn)
 - a) No updates
 - 5) Hidden Valley Community Association Report (Raye-Lynn)
 - a) No updates
 - 6) New Business/Other Business
 - a) Volunteers needed: Key Communicator, Fundraising Committee
 - b) VCS Chair Update (Sarah)
 - 6.2 School Engagement Grant \$1,500
 - School Trustee Laura Hack + new Area Director are invited and will attend our April meeting
 - Mother Earth Workshop Update (Shelley)
 - Dates that are available: May 11th – 15th or June 8th – 12th available for 130 kids
 - Usually she only does about 40 children maximum (so we won't do the entire school)
 - Supplies are already being gathered – if they go through the learning commons we can circle through the 5 full classes – but how much time does she need for teaching and building
 - Logistics are up to admin to figure out, but Shelley has figured out dates
 - There is enough money in the grant to cover the Grade 5s for now – perhaps we can do more next year
 - If possible Shelley would like to invite parents
 - Link to last year's workshop:
<https://www.sparrowartspace.com/events/art-of-mother-earth-nature-workshop>
 - c) Wednesday April 22nd is Administrative Assistant Day – could we do a coffee cart that day? There are no conflicts in the school calendar.
 - 7) Next meeting date:
 - a) Next meeting April 21st at 6:30 pm IN PERSON at Valley Creek School
 - Questions will need to be provided a minimum of 1 week in advance so Laura and Andrea can be prepared
 - 8) Motion to adjourn at **7:42 pm by Sarah**. All in favour. Adjourned.