

Valley Creek School Council Meeting Minutes – April 21st, 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, Eden Hunt, Alison Barrington, Shelley Wiart, Brandy Legacy, Annika Triantifillou, Raye-Lynn Graham, Evelyn Pai

Sandra Martin (Acting Principal)

Meghan La Barbera (Assistant Principal)

Stephanie Buchan (Assistant Principal)

Teacher rep – none present

Guests – Andrea Sarson

- 1) Meeting called to order at 6:32 pm by Sarah. Welcome and Introductions.
- 2) Agenda reviewed. Motion to approve agenda by Krista Seconded by Annika and March 17th, 2026 meeting minutes by Lisa Seconded by Shelley All in Favour. Approved.
- 3) Administration & School updates by Principal (Sandra)
 - a) Admin Updates
 - Classroom Complexity – there was an update added to the monthly newsletter explaining what the team is. To recap, Ms Reinhart has been asked to come out of the classroom to take on the classroom

complexity role, and we will have another teacher fill her role. She has focused on a lot of the math intervention groups + knew the data on our school, and she has some French background. This team is primarily for the Grades 5 + 6 only.

- We were also to receive funding for 2 x 30 hour EAs
- Our first choice was to increase hours for our existing EA so she now gets full days with Grades 5 + 6
- We can now request for EA subs to pick up the extra hours (23.5)
- All these supports go to Grade 5 + 6
- Next year it might look different – it should still be 1 teacher + 2 EAs but more details to come based on more time to hire
- Funding will not change even though there will only be Grade 6 next year
- The Government of Alberta was specific that this funding needs to go to Elementary only
- Connection week is next week (April 27 – May 1)
 - Some teachers are doing a different activity each day
 - School council will be helping with the Concession at the dance
- School Trips: Quebec + Sailing Trip
 - Mr Senft has offered to plan a Quebec trip
 - It is for this year's Grade 7+8 students, for both English + French students (so, the Grade 8s and 9s next year)
 - We will host an evening with the tour operator to explain the trip and what students will see + do
 - Administration will be working with Mr Senft to organize all pieces that are necessary
 - The aim is to have the trip in April 2027
 - The second aim is to run the trip every other year
 - Mixed Demers is interested in hosting a sailing trip
 - These trips would alternate (next year Quebec, the following year a sailing trip)
 - There have been some conversations in the Grade 6 classes to go to Camp Chief Hector
 - It is important to note that all trips may have fundraisers that are totally separate from Parent Council

- Rough cost is \$3000+ per trip – exact costs are unknown (based on numbers, teachers, flights, etc)
- Sandra will stay on as principal until the end of this school year – more updates to come later if she returns in September

b) Funding Requests

- No funding requests

c) Admin Questions

- None

d) Guest speakers – Andrea Sarson

- Andrea taught at VCS from 2008 – 2012
- Moved into the role of Area Director (recently)
- Questions were provided prior to the meeting – she will do her best to answer them but some are quite high level
- *1) Due to bussing constraints there has been a reduction in student break time. 40 minutes for lunch + 11 minutes for nutrition. Will bell times and break times stay the same next year or will they be increased or decreased? Each student is required to have 950 hours of instruction (this is set by government), then the district works with transportation which sets the bell times. We can put in a request for changes but ultimately the principal cannot make decisions about bell times. The only wiggle room you have is around recess, nutrition break + lunch hours. The rule we “follow” for middle school is that they have 20 minutes to eat. Anything more than 20 minutes is built as break time – intramurals, clubs, etc.*
 - *Follow up: how can we find out about bell times sooner in order to advocate? (Last year, the times were already set in stone)*
 - Bussing will be the same next year – transportation needs to hit 3 schools to break even on bussing
- *2) What are the capacity expectations for next year? How will the school be managing capacity if it is in excess? For example, this year several grades were asked to share lockers among students, and this has left them little room for their belongings. Administration has counted the lockers – and we will not have the same locker issue, though we don’t know our numbers for certain. Most students will be able to have their own lockers next year. We have approximately 800 lockers. Utilization rate will high for some time in this area of the city. The government provided funding for new schools but these take a lot of time – so the constraints will be in place for a few years.*

- *How does Bill 25 define neutrality in classrooms when teaching historically documented injustices as Indian Residential Schools, and how will you ensure that neutrality does not result in the minimization or dilution of Indigenous lived experiences and historical truths?*
Because the bill has not yet passed, we are still waiting to see what will happen. The government is aiming to pass an Omnibus bill. As of right now, practices are not changing, but if it gets passed, changes will need to be made. We can't say what those changes will be. The Board of Trustees has been putting out a statement about safe and respectful learning environments. We are preparing that if this does pass there could be implications for the classrooms. Trustee Laura Hack may have more details next month. Ultimately, teachers are responsible for teaching the curriculum.
- *As a Metis parent and academic, I am concerned that Bill 25 may unintentionally contribute to the erasure or softening of historical truths. How will you respond if students or parents raise concerns that curriculum delivery is causing harm or erasing lived realities? See above for the response.*

4) Hidden Valley School Liaison Report (Raye-Lynn)

- a) HVS is doing their Spring/End of the year celebration on June 10th
 - Free event, games, hot dog, juice + chips as a “buy dinner” but tickets aren't for sale
 - People are welcome to bring a pic-nic or their own food
- b) Request for leadership information – an email bounce-back was received
 - VCS admin will follow up
- c) They are interested in more traffic safety + adding patrols since Grade 5 will be returning to that school
 - Admin recommends we call 311 if we want more traffic enforcement

5) Hidden Valley Community Association Report (Raye-Lynn)

- a) Street sweeper signs are coming up
- b) Hidden Valley Parade of garage sales on May 23/24
- c) Neighbourhood Day will be June 20th – a potluck event at the Hidden Hut
- d) Community Clean up is June 13th
- e) Raye-Lynn has the information for our community liaison if there are neighbourhood issues we want addressed
- f) Take a photo + log your 311 ticket

6) New Business/Other Business

a) Volunteers needed: Key Communicator, Fundraising Committee

b) School Dance

- All supplies have been purchased based on numbers from last year

c) Mother Earth Workshop

- The artist is Lesia T. Bear – she lives in Cochrane – she will take parent council to do a nature walk on Saturday May 9th before the workshop so we can learn about the land prior to the workshop. She will give information on cultural appreciation/appropriation
- May 11th is when the event will be hosted for the children – for Grade 5s – it goes all day. Some volunteers are necessary. Each class will have 45 – 60 minutes. Each student will have their own canvas.
- Lesia is open to hosting an art show so the students can show what they have learned and created. Shelley will follow up with admin on what might work.
- This will be paid for by the Amazon Web Services grant.

7) Next meeting date:

a) Next meeting May 19th 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 7:25 pm BY Eden and seconded by Annika. All in favour.

Adjourned.