

Valley Creek School Council Meeting Minutes – January 20th, 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, Ashley Thiessen, Danna Weatherbee, Annika Triantifillou, Shane, Kirsten Ledergerber, Maria Fedoruk

Sandra Martin (Acting Principal)

Meghan La Barbera (Assistant Principal)

Stephanie Buchan (Assistant Principal)

Teacher rep – absent

Guests - none

- 1) Meeting called to order at **6:32 PM BY Sarah**. Welcome and Introductions.
- 2) Agenda reviewed. Motion to approve agenda by **Lisa** Seconded by **Celeste** and November 18th, 2025 meeting minutes by **Celeste** Seconded by **Krista**. All in Favour. Approved.
- 3) Administration & School updates by Principal (Sandra)
 - a) Admin Updates
 - Update on hole in Grade 8 classroom
 - This has been repaired – they investigated why it was happening, and they found they needed to do a roof repair
 - Students were back in classrooms by December

- Melody Pelling helped to push to get a better understanding and speed the process
- Update on (Student Wellbeing Action Team) SWAT
 - They went to a big symposium, everyone said it was amazing
 - Sandra attended a meeting with SWAT students last week and they are meeting to discuss the different initiatives they will be doing in the school
 - Sandra wanted to see the CCC/SWAT/Leadership students to be connected in terms of what they are doing
 - Info will be shared soon
- Update on the Principal role
 - Sandra's contract has been extended until March 27th
 - The CBE will only do it in three month increments – she only gets information at the very end
 - She would have to apply for the Permanent Role if it becomes open
- Ministerial Order #34 – Removal of Certain Library Books (Standards for access to school library materials)
 - No books were removed from our Learning Commons (this means that none of our books met the criteria to be removed)
- Staffing Updates Grade 7 & 9
 - Ms Handa is off on maternity leave – she is the Grade 9 generalist – she taught Humanities, Math and Science
 - Mr John Burke will join the team to cover the maternity leave – he is new to CBE but he has held various teaching roles and has diverse experiences in math/science/humanities
 - Mr Vopicka is back – in January there were two teachers together in this class to support the students – Mr Lee's contract is done at the end of January
- New CBE Area Director
 - Melody Pelling is retiring at the end of February
 - The new director will be Andrea Sarson – she was most recently an assistant principal + Core Curriculum and Assessment + worked directly with VCS assistant principal Steph Buchan
 - We can talk to her and see if we can bring her to a council meeting – though right now she has a lot going on
- Intro to Charger Connection Committee

- This is a Student Advisory Council – they can represent their peers and share a letter of interest to their teachers
 - Two reps from each grade will be selected
 - They will meet once a month (more if necessary)
 - Survey data will be shared with students, and how the information will be used
 - This is a place for students to ask questions and then share information backwards to their peers
 - E-Sports Update
 - Mr Vopicka has returned so the club will start
 - Wednesdays at lunch
 - There are opportunities for a future tournament
 - Field Trip Bussing Costs
 - Grade 5 – \$960 – 124 students + chaperones
 - Grade 6 - \$960 – 130 students + chaperones
 - Grade 7 - \$1280 – 179 students + chaperones **want to go to Drumheller and put this funding towards that trip for a Coach bus, and parents would pay the difference**
 - Grade 8 - \$1280 – 189 students + chaperones
 - Grade 9 - \$1280 – 176 students + chaperones
 - Drama Program Update
 - Teachers were not interested in doing the drama program the way it ran last year
 - Some teachers are interested in offering a drama club but there was no interest in running either drama programs that were presented by Parent Council
 - Assessment & Scheduling
 - PAT schedule has been released – most of June has one test per day
 - Grade 6’s and 9’s no longer overlap – there is only one grade and subject being tested per day
 - Dates are posted to the school website
- b) Funding Requests
- School Jerseys for Cross-Country & Track Team
 - Bussing (see details above for breakdown by grade)
- c) Admin Questions
- *What is the process for reviewing forms/expectations with teachers?*

- There is a form for teachers to follow of things they need to have in place in order to have a potluck/guest speaker/field trip
 - There are many protocols to follow and processes – many times teachers may not be aware until they actually run into those requirements. Admin tries to work with teachers so they know ahead of time.
 - Website is updated with current activities
 - *Is e-sports open to all grades?*
 - Only open to Grades 7 – 9 students
 - *Can admin provide the contact info for new area director?*
 - Yes
 - *Can we store a new popcorn machine?*
 - Yes there is the storage room still available
- d) Guest speakers
- None present

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

- a) They are doing another big traffic sign/billboard in February
- b) With the later start times they are finding it not as busy at the crosswalk but it is still an issue at the bus stop

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

- a) Winter festival on Feb 21st – wagon rides + other activities
- b) They just finished their casino fundraising

6) New Business/Other Business

- a) VCS Chair Update (Sarah)
 - 6.1 Next meeting February 17th 2026 will take place online
 - 6.2 School Engagement Grant \$1,500
 - This is \$500 for the last 3 years
 - There are specific criteria from Alberta Ed on how to use the funds
 - We have struggled with school engagement the last few years
 - It has to be spent within this school year
 - Examples of what we can do: workshops for parents, info sessions, parent resources, events to engage parents on

important local issues, conference fees, parent engagement in promoting the value of arts

- The SWAT students can provide some ideas or other parents/members can give us some ideas
- Suggestion from Sandra: coordinate with Hidden Valley School to see if we can coordinate ***ACTION ITEM FOR SARAH***
- Because this is aimed at parents – do we still have to follow the CBE processes? ANSWER: It depends on what you are looking to do – once we have an idea Sandra will look into it
- Question from Ashley – is it possible to get a list of things we can an can't spend it on? ***SARAH WILL PROVIDE ONE-PAGER***
- Non-instructional days on Jan 30th, Feb 12th, 13th, 16th, Feb 27th
- Report cards Feb 24th

7) Next meeting date:

- a) Next meeting Tuesday February 17th at 6:30 pm ONLINE (Link to be sent by admin the Monday before the meeting)

8) Motion to adjourn at **7:11 pm by Sarah P.** All in favour. Adjourned.