

Valley Creek School Council Meeting Minutes – May 19th, 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, Ashley Thiessen, Shelley Wiart, Brandy Legacy, Raye-Lynn Graham, Evelyn Pai

Sandra Martin (Acting Principal)

Meghan La Barbera (Assistant Principal)

Stephanie Buchan (Assistant Principal)

Teacher rep – Grace Chambers

Guests – Laura Hack

- 1) Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm by Shelley. Welcome and Introductions.
- 2) Agenda reviewed. Motion to approve agenda by Brandy Seconded by Celeste and April 21st, 2026 meeting minutes by Lisa Seconded by Celeste All in Favour. Approved.
- 3) Administration & School updates by Principal (Sandra)
 - a) Admin Updates
 - Bell times will remain the same next year
 - Staff voice on the timetable for next year – they almost unanimously voted to keep it the same as it ran this year (2025/2026)

- Options for next year – they combine student and staff voice (interest + skills)
 - Students have already selected their options, next step is to create the schedules
- Chargers Connection Week – April 27th – May 1st
 - Culture Day, Masked Singer, Dance, Pep Rally
 - No incidents at the dance
- PATs started May 19th and go until the end of June – they run almost every other day
 - There are make up days for students who miss them
 - All PATs are done via computer so students can have the questions read to them
 - No PATs are done on paper
- We are getting cameras for the school inside and outside. They are in the public areas of the building. Admin has access to the cameras
 - This will help with vandalism + theft
 - Students caught committing these acts fall under the progressive discipline process
 - Almost every jr high/middle school will get them
 - Funding is through a grant
 - Camera footage is stored centrally – admin needs to have permission to download footage

b) Funding Requests

- Grace Chambers – actual crib boards to support the memorization of basic math facts and engagement with French language.
 - There is a Grade 9 teacher who may also be teaching crib
 - 10 boards allows 30 students to play – but 15 would be better
 - Canadian Tire: \$15.99 per crib board so \$168 with GST for 10

c) Admin Questions

- *Follow up: Quebec meeting?* CBE has a new process for field trips so the planning is still in development – but a document needed to get sent to Andrea Sarson (it is approved). Dates for the parent meeting TBD (it might be June, or September). Only 35 students will be able to go so that there is only one bus on the tours. The 35 students will be a draw.
- *Is Sandra still the acting principal?* Helen put in her retirement notice, Sandra applied for the role but we have no more details

- *How are results of PATs communicated?* The school gets preliminary results at the end of the month. Parents can access it through the portal, or you may receive hard copies from the school itself. You get the finals in late September. The Board will make a recommendation and we follow them. The teachers can see the results fairly instantly. The marks from the PAT do not make any part of the student's grade

d) Guest speakers – Laura Hack

- As of last week we received funding announcement to hire 362 new teachers for next year to lower class sizes (this is just for CBE) – we are getting 1 in \$4 from the funding and we education 1 in 6 children in the system. This funding is only for K-9 teachers.
- We have our first budget meeting from CBE admin tomorrow May 20th – and it does not include that money. Then on May 26th there will be debate/motions on the budget in the Board
- Bill 25 and 28 have already received royal ascent – it is an omnibus bill – they are pushing through a ton of different things with this bill. We are still waiting on regulations/ministerial orders in terms of what needs to change and what the Board will need to change in policy and code of conduct.
 - Boards can't speak out on social/political/ideological ideas unless related to education
 - We know that this will impact students/staff/families
- Q: Bussing and bell times: You received a notification to sign up for bussing, but fees have not been passed from Board of Trustees. Laura will be asking about fuel costs + if there will be changes to bell times. If we are paying more – does that mean there are more busses + drivers? (*Things are probably not changing for next year*). It takes 4 -5 years to build a bus, and there is a Canada-wide shortage for drivers
- Capacity question: The capacity is more a principal question on how lockers are managed. (This was answered in April 2026 meeting minutes by admin). There is a new school opening in Evanston, we are likely to stay at 94-95% utilization. Modulars are being moved to support students to learn closest to home. There is also a new school being built in Nolan Hill. Valley Creek School is closed status – we cannot accept any students outside of our catchment zone.
- Capital plan for next year – 26 projects for design, construction – no requests are necessary due to Schools Now. But these are P3 school – public-private-partnership. So CBE no longer owns them – but pays

for the school use if there are damaged walls, penetration permit to hang posters, ball removals, temperature adjustment. Who fits the school with wifi, desks, musical instruments, etc. No way to replenish capital reserves (ie: rentals) – and CBE can be evicted.

- Neutrality definition: this is still unclear
- How will they regulate teachers? Anyone can be a teacher now starting in Grades 7 – 9 – they can receive permanent certification after they have been observed. Once they have permanent certification they can teach anything. This is one way they are trying to address teacher shortages. The U of C was not given any funding to have more students in the B.Ed program.
- What is meant by Trustee Code of Conduct? We think the Quality Standards will be adjusted.
- The government has 60 days to approve the appointment of a superintendent. This also raises questions of who this person reports to (The Board of Trustees is officially the employer but due to changing rules it is unclear).
- Erasure of Residential schools from the curriculum? Curriculum has always been provincially mandated. The teachers will likely still be teaching historical narratives around residential schools in a way that does not harm children.
- We are a large board and a metro board so we do still have lots of people who want to work for us + there is lots of recruitment efforts.
- Our priorities are academic achievement, equity and student and staff well-being. The perspective of staff well-being is new but based on the idea that you can't pour from an empty cup. Admin has been tasked with developing strategies to support retention.
- All of this will come into effect in September.
- Additional questions for Laura can be sent via email

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

- a) After a successful parent advocacy campaign, bell times for next year are changing – lunch will now be 45 minutes, with a 15 minute recess
 - School starts at 8:52 am and ends at 3:27 pm
 - There are two different schedules for lunch (so not all children have lunch at the same time)
 - Fridays 8:52 am – 12:57 pm

- b) They are getting cameras that will be running 24/7 – most of their cameras are outside
 - c) Their spring event is June 10th – they will be asking for student volunteers from VCS
- 5) Hidden Valley Community Association Report (Raye-Lynn)
- a) We have new speed cushions near the schools to improve traffic + pedestrian safety – this is part of a pilot project
 - b) Neighbour Day is June 20th
 - c) Community Clean up is June 13th
 - d) Parade of Garage Sales May 23rd + 24th
 - e) Raye-Lynn has some contact information for people on the community to support with grant applications
- 6) New Business/Other Business
- a) Volunteers needed: Key Communicator, Fundraising Committee
 - b) Transit Ride Orientation is May 25th
 - c) School Dance
 - It was fun – glowsticks were popular!
 - Everything was sold out – feedback from staff and students was positive – cans of pop work as long as the school continues to have a supervision plan for students to eat/drink in the gathering space (versus the gym)
 - d) Mother Earth Workshop
 - Some photos were shared
 - Leisa brought in her plants and followed Indigenous protocol for collecting the plants. The children were excited – 130 students participated, 5 classes + some teachers and admin. Leisa displayed her art as inspiration. We started with a land acknowledgement + blessing.
 - Students were able to interact with the materials in a way that suited their unique sensibilities
 - Leisa was going around to help the children + one child asked “Is there a God” – Leisa explained some Indigenous perspectives on this question
 - If you want to do similar activities at home – consider reading Braiding Sweetgrass For Young Adults (and review the Honourable Harvest protocol)

- An art show for the students to show their work would be supportive to the students work
- This wraps up the Amazon Web Services grant
- *Question: will a session like this be permitted next year with this new Bill 25?* The answer is unclear especially given the connection between Indigenous teachings and spirituality and holistic development of humans (everything is connected)

7) Next meeting June 16th at 6:30 pm IN PERSON at Valley Creek School

a) ****THIS MAY CHANGE – WATCH YOUR EMAILS****

Motion to adjourn at 7:49 pm BY Shelley and seconded by Lisa. All in favour. Adjourned.