

Valley Creek School Council Meeting Minutes – April 15, 2025

Attendees:

Celeste McIlhargey, Shelley Wiart, Annika Triantafillou, Patsy Yu

Sandra Martin (acting principal),

Meghan La Barbera (Assistant Principal)

Guillaume LaRoche (Acting Assistant Principal)

Jenna Hunt (Teacher rep – attended virtually)

Guests:

None

- 1) Meeting called to order at 6:44 pm by Shelley. Welcome and Introductions.
- 2) Agenda reviewed. Motion to approve agenda by Celeste Seconded by Lana and March 18th meeting minutes by Celeste Seconded by Lana. All in Favour. Approved.
- 3) Administration & School updates by Principal (Sandra)
 - a) Admin Updates
 - Grateful for the support for connection week – it was an amazing way to bring the students together – brought a lot of the students together – brought the teachers together – it was such a smooth event people were surprised it was the first one – maybe next year we can do one at the start and end of the year
 - A man called about his concern about garbage in the area – on the way to Circle K – requesting that parents call and ask for garbage cans from the City of Calgary
 - Peace officers came on April 14th – they were doing enforcement on traffic in the area
 - We are hatching chicks and leadership students will create education pieces for the learners
 - Options for next year – we are in the initial stages – we did a survey of all the students + teachers and cross-referenced the results – now reviewing access to options
 - Grade 5/6 – these are standard
 - Grade 7 – art, band x2, photography, film studies, design studies (based on children's interest – for example, one group of students

designed games), fashion studies – plus the same things from before

- Grade 8 – now adding Cosmetology. Design studies, Tourism – plus the same things from last year
- Grade 9 – adding Design Studies, French as a second language
- There are at least 3 new options per grade
- They are still looking at additional process updates and planning for next year at the next Council meeting
- Upcoming Events
 - April 16 – Evergreen Theatre – Grades 5+6 – this is free because we booked them in the fall – Sandra is working on a grant to pay for half for next year
 - April 16 – Grade 9 students going to Aberhart for a Franco-Albertan concert (for French students) – they will be joined by other Grade 9s from the other feeder schools
 - April 25 – Student Vote
 - May 5 – 6-6 and 6-7 Confluence Park Field Trip
 - May 7 – Grade 8 Surge Basketball
 - May 12 – 5-6 and 5-7 Confluence Park field trip
 - May 13 – Grade 7 Tamara Cardinal Orange Shirt Activity
 - May 16 – Staff Professional Learning – Mookaksin – this is Indigenous learning that will take place in 4 different places in Calgary – Valley Creek is part of the planning circle – we have Nose Hill, Confluence Park, Public library and Tsuu T’ina – there are over 500 people who will be attending – teachers will choose where they participate – each school contributes a fee
 - May 20 – We will have some planning info for next year
 - For Grades 5 – 8 – three times between now and the end of the year – they will have play learning with the younger children from Hidden Valley School – to practice French speaking

b) Funding Requests

- Mr Shane Vopicka – Esport Club – asked Mr Laroche to present
 - A lot of infrastructure at CBE has been built for this
 - Essentially it is competitive video gaming
 - This is very good for students who aren’t athletic but want to build team-work and other “sports” skills at school

- Lots of cognitive benefits: communication, problem-solving, critical thinking, can motivate students to keep coming to school, increased academic achievement and more
- This draws a very different crowd (80% of participants in e-sports say this is their first extra-curricular activity)
- There are now some e-sport scholarships at Universities/Colleges
- **We would like a soft start:**
- Nintendo Switch: \$399.00 x 2
- Pro Controller: \$89.99 x 8
- Games: \$235.55 x 2
- Cases \$50 - \$100 x 2
- **So roughly \$2000 to start up then relatively low year over year**
- Ms Jenna Hunt – FitSet was set up at the other school today and the kids were excited – it is booked for May 20 – 22. Alien Inline is booked for Feb 5/6.
 - For the equipment list they have 26 items and are trying to prioritize it
 - A father is a teacher at FEO and has volunteered to make a Gagaball Pit for our school
 - Jenna is looking at more field trips – but if only 50% of kids return their forms – this leads to very expensive bussing
 - **No new requests**

c) Admin Questions

- *Is Coding an option?* Not currently, but there is a teacher looking at starting Robotics as an extracurricular. Coding is now part of mathematics curriculum in elementary.
- *Any news on science fair?* Admin has not heard.
- *A lot of kids in Grade 9 at other schools do a big trip - it sounds like this school used to have it – is that something that this school could look at for English/French students?* This conversation was just had with some teachers to review Quebec trips – we have a lot of new staff – who felt like we need to build up the overnights – for example Grade 7 at Tyrrell, Grade 8s in Edmonton. It is a lot of work to get into.
- *Is there a plan for Grade 9 grad?* It has been narrowed down but more details next time

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

- a) No update provided

5) Hidden Valley Community Association Report (Adwoa)

- a) Spring clean up – mid-April – community parking bans will be in effect – Calgary Parking uses a camera, tickets arrive by mail
- b) Storm drains – check the ones near your home for debris, ice or snow. Make a channel to help the water flow. If you think it is frozen and water is pooling after 90 – 120 minutes – call 311.
- c) Jane's Walk 2025: Jane's Walk is set for May 2, 3, 4. The Federation of Calgary Communities @fedyyc is hosting another weekend of community-led walking tours. Walker registration begins March 14th. Walks are FREE and open to the public to learn more about the places and spaces we call home. For more info, visit Jane's Walk YYC Main Page – Jane's Walk | Jane's Walk
- d) Tree Education: Calgary Parks is running tree education sessions this spring. Registration for "Right Tree, Right Location" is now open on the website. Visit Tree care and education for more details.
- e) TRAVEL SAFE VIDEO CONTEST, April 30: Calgary students in Kindergarten to Grade 12 are invited to create an original 30-second video to promote safety while traveling on city streets, sidewalks and/or pathways. Videos can be funny, serious, live action, stop motion, animated or a mix of styles. Deadline for application, April 30
- f) May 24th + 25th – parade of garage sales – there will also be a Garage "Fun Drive" after that – they can bring their items to Hidden Hut afterwards, everything will be donated to Value Village and the community association receives some funds

6) New Business/Other Business

- a) VCS Chair Update
 - Charger Connection Week (Brad & Nally will provide feedback next month)
 - ASCA – Spring symposium will be held online on Zoom on April 26
 - Alberta School's Council Engagement Grant – Paint nite? (Celeste)
 - Creative Pathways to Reconciliation Education
 - – Beading circle with Chantelle – April 16, 23, May 7 and 14 – we got one registration on paper *tomorrow will be interesting* now open to 7s/8s/9s
 - Tamara Cardinal – May 13th
 - Karen Pheasant-Neganigwane (school-wide) – Monday June 10th, 9 am
 - Advocacy letter to School Director Melody Pelling – we would like to request consistent leadership at the school (we have had 4 principals in 3 years)

7) Next meeting date:

- a) **Next meeting Tuesday May 20th** at 6:30 pm at Valley Creek School Library

8) Motion to adjourn at 7:42 pm by Shelley seconded by Celeste. All in favour. Adjourned.