

Vista Hills School Council

Virtual Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 28, 2020

Where: Google Meet

When: Thursday, May 28, 2020

Attendees: Diana Clipsham, Sharon Han, Breanna Swanson, Jennifer Christopher, Jill Pletsch, Milena Krstic, Sarah Moldenhauer, Anne Plouffe, Melanie Roberts, Jerry Humes, Greg James, Hajra Hafeez, Eliana Frederick, Amy Sergi-Hammond, Mr. Oberle, Mrs. Sheriff

School has been closed since March 13, 2020. With the recent announcement of schools being closed for the remainder of the 2019/2020 school year, we took the opportunity to hold a small virtual school council session during our scheduled May meeting time. Since this was the first time we had tried using Google Meet, this meeting was opened up to a smaller group of parents who regularly attended school council meetings during the school year. Prior to meeting we asked parents to send in any questions for Mr. Oberle.

Agenda Items:

1. Welcome, Google Meet Reminders and Introductions – Don

We are meeting now because we were waiting to hear what was happening for the remainder of the school year. Want to thank everyone for their patience and support during this unprecedented time.

2. Approval of Minutes from February meeting – Melanie

Minutes from February were accepted, motioned by Hajra Hafeez second Jennifer Christopher

3. Financial Report – Hajra

We had **\$14,116.82** as available funds in February's meeting (*\$100 had been spent in iPad covers at that time*) when **\$6,000** was approved for teacher wish lists and **\$4,000** for the sensory room. That leaves **\$4,116.82** as available funds.

Asked if the school could use any of these funds at this time? Don – no pressing needs for available funds at the moment. Since the \$6,000 was not spent for the teacher wish lists, this money will be rolled over to the school budget. Will have a better idea of how to best use this money at next meeting June 18th (technology? Grad?) it may be best to save for next school year.

4. Pre-COVID school council wrap up (Wellness Evening, Sensory room, spending items) – Melanie

- Due to the school closure, the Wellness Evening that was scheduled for April 23rd did not take place
 - Parent Reaching Out Grant (\$500) was approved to go towards the cost of the guest speakers...waiting to hear how that money will be reallocated
 - Rotary Grant was also to be used to help with the costs, now redirected to the Vista Hills School Council WEFI account

- In February discussed the possibility of sushi lunches and using lunchboxorders.com for online ordering, all of that (including pizza lunches) are on hold until we find out more about next school year.
- Message from Shemira – deeply grateful for the support from the parent community for supporting teachers during this year

5. School updates during COVID, question and answer – Don

Decision makers will guide safe, healthy return to school based on public health recommendations. Whatever measures need to be put in place will be put in place no matter the number of students attending the school.

Looking at some new measures, like opening up outside washroom at VH for students and possibly portable sinks for portables.

Report cards

- waiting for specific info from the Ministry, will share the process when available

School resources

- 150-200 chromebooks/iPads out on loan to families
- Looking at way to collect all school owned items
- Pick-up for personal belongings will take place in June

School Organization Update

Enrolment – 753

Departing Staff

- Long Term Occasional Staff - Ms Cervi, Ms. Hambleton, Ms. Ko, Ms. Dubeau, Ms. Lawry, Ms. Budalfalvi, Mr. Budalfalvi, Ms. Shinnie, Ms. Kralt
- Ms. Crabb (DECE), Ms. Thompson (DECE),
- Staff Transfers - Mr. Willard, Mrs. Touhey

New students to VH in September – Looking for a new way of doing orientation

Grade 8 students going to SJAM – Looking at options to introduce students going into high school (virtual tours, google classroom)

Parent Questions

Is there a contingency plan for September if all kids can't go to school?

The decision will be made at the Ministry and Board level.

Planning for September as if all students can go to school.

Is Vista Hills considering (where possible of course) keeping children in the same classes with the same teachers when they return to school next year to maintain some continuity/stability for them?

They have considered that in the past. In some cases that works best, not in other cases, where it is a possibility and makes sense.

I'm curious how will next school year look like? Also, does it means half of the kids will attend classes and half online classes and then rotate?

Many possibilities will be considered for September. Won't know until later in August. Will have to see when and how that will look.

Is there any possibility of reviewing boundaries as we are big school?

Wouldn't think that would be a preferred option, hasn't come up as a possibility.

How would look breakdown of the classes for the next year?

Looking at the breakdown of classes in June. Haven't had the usual new enrolments in the school as in the past (due to COVID not as many home sales etc.). Goal is to try to know the number of students expected in September. Expect some reorganization at that time. If there are teacher requests for next year, please go through current teacher or Shemira/Don.

For next year, the intermediate numbers (grades 7/8) are down since the transfer of students from Abraham Erb is finishing up this year (the grade 8s from Abe Erb will be graduating).

When to expect to know the teacher and classroom? When will school start?

Based on information currently available...

- Teacher info posted Friday before Labour Day
- School to start Tuesday after Labour Day

If families are not comfortable returning in Sept, will be up to the Board to decide what that looks like.

If there is school in September, will there be a transition time?

- Transition time would be helpful for all students
- Maybe during the two PD Days before the Labour Day weekend?

How can we get gifts/cards to teachers to thank them at the end of the school year?

- Very kind to be asked
- Anyone interested please consider making a donation to a charity, especially this year

How are teachers grading distance learning work?

- Distance learning can only improve student's standing
- Students won't be penalized during COVID

Resources from Mr. Oberle:

Thought Exchange Feedback

<https://www.wrdsb.ca/blog/2020/05/28/the-results-exchanging-ideas-and-sharing-thoughts/>

How Can We Help You?

<https://www.wrdsb.ca/blog/2020/05/15/distance-learning-continues-weeks-seven-and-eight/>

Mental Health Resources

<https://schools.wrdsb.ca/athome/mental-health-resources/>

Next virtual school council meeting Thursday June 18th at 6:30pm through Google Meet.

Ongoing school council fundraisers



COBS Bread at The Boardwalk

Mention Vista Hills Public School when you order and Cobs will donate 10% of your order to our school

Mabel's Labels Fundraiser online at https://mabelslabels.ca/en_CA/fundraising/support/ and search for Vista Hills