

Vista Hills School Council

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 28, 2021

Where: Google Meet, Invitation sent to interested participants

When: Thursday, January 28, 2021 at 6:30pm

Invited Parents: Diana Clipsham, Sharon Han, Jennifer Christopher, Breanna Swanson, Hajra Hafeez, Greg James, Katelyn Brunskill, Jenn Phan, Andrew Sieminski, Ahmad Sghaier, Louise Caswell, Milena Krstic, Joanne Cojic, Bhaleka Persaud, Beth Daniel, Melanie Roberts, Sarah Moldenhauer, Kelly Fraser, Jill Pletsch, Anne Plouffe, Fathima Fataar, Raneem Al-Halimi, Jerry Humes, Mrs. Bumstead, Penny Miller, Rick Saunders

Agenda Items:

1. Welcome, Google Meet Reminders and Introductions – Melanie
2. Vista Hills Updates – Penny Miller & Rick Saunders
 - In person learning is scheduled to begin Thursday February 11th (*since changed to February 8th*)
 - Additions to Staff (Miss Mulhull, Mr. Muhktar, Ms Peterson)
 - Miss Mulhull new grade 5/6 teacher to replace Mrs. L.A.
 - Mr. Muhktar new French core teacher for junior & intermediate
 - Ms. Peterson new grade 8 teacher moved from distance learning to replace Mr. Evans
 - Distance Learning update
 - Synchronous learning
 - 225 minutes online per day for junior and intermediate classes
 - 180 minutes online for kindergarten
 - New sliding doors installed (Junior Entrance)
 - Junior entrance doors (across from portables) have been a challenge with the wind
 - Spent \$14,000 on repairs, added a wind barrier, but still had problems
 - Changed the doors to sliding doors at a cost of \$14,000
 - Mrs. Miller settling in to the School
 - Getting to know staff and students in-person
 - Settling into the school well
 - Reorganization Timeline - coming soon
 - Jan 29th the last day to change mode of learning
 - Looks like the around the same amount of students coming in and going out
 - Reorganization would depend on actual numbers, if we have to do a reorg hope it will be minimal

- Report Cards (a few differences to be expected) – Feb 17th
 - There will now be one math mark
 - Teachers may comment on different strands
 - There may be some 'I's for Insufficient data
- 3. Approval of November Minutes – Jerry
Motion to approve Milena Krstic, second Jennifer Christopher
- 4. 2019/2020 Financial Update – Penny
 - Due to changes in school council treasurers and VH admin asked for an audit, since so many people were navigating the same things
 - Last March to recently there have been a lot of extra expenses related to COVID
 - Refunding school buses for cancelled trips, a day of pizza (March 25)
 - Planners bought that parents couldn't purchase
 - Purchased in February for 2020/2021 school year and arrived in July
 - Stools for kindergarten classes for washing hands, COVID signage that was unique for VH, plexiglass dividers
 - Needed to settle up so all lines in the budget added up
 - Needed to use \$2600 of school council funds for COVID relief for Vista Hills (expenses to ready the school to accept students in September 2020)

Question from parent

- Can we have a process in advance to get buy-in before these decisions are made? We are a very engaged group of parents and would like the participation of school council.

Response

- Due to the circumstances in Don's departure we weren't able to consult
- Goal is always to work collaboratively with school council

Comment from parent

- In the past we have always discussed and voted on any expense

Response

- It was an unusual circumstance

Comment from parent

While parents understood the unusual circumstances around the expenditure reported, parents at school council requested that **moving forward** we would like more engagement and involvement by school administration when it comes to expending funds raised by school council.

Motion to approve \$2600 of school council funds to be used towards COVID expenses Jill Pletsch, second Anne Plouffe

5. 2020/2021 Financial Update – Kelly

- Opening balance for 2020/2021 year
 - After the audit and the \$2600, we had an opening balance of \$18696.16
- Revenue and expenses for this school year
 - No revenue for the 2020/2021 school year so far
 - There were 2 expenses in October:
 1. \$1626 for pizza day refunds (missed due to school closure last March 25 and refunded to parents Oct 2020)
 2. candy apples for teacher appreciation (\$461.04, but received a GST rebate of \$44.23)
 - \$500 is also on hold for the office discretionary fund
 - Leaving a balance of \$16,153 of available funds

*Motion to accept \$16,153 as the balance going forward for available school council funds
Breanna Swanson, second Milena Krstic*

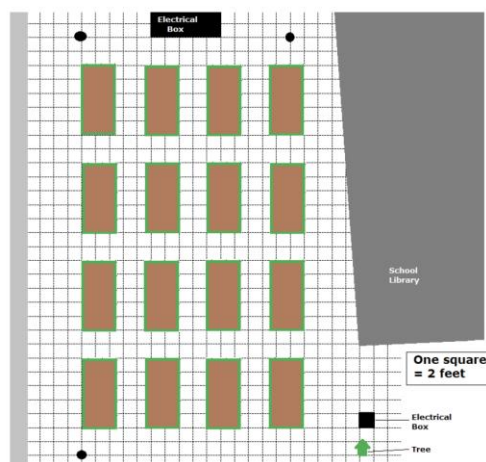
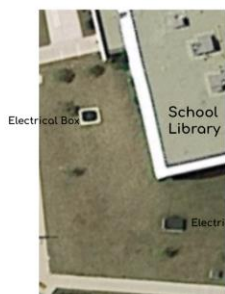
6. Wellness Event and PRO grant – Melanie

- Possible Wellness Event hosted by School Council when the time is right
- Apply for PRO grant to cover up to \$500 of the cost
- If approved, committee will be created to put together event

7. VH Garden Team Initiative – Anne

- VH Garden Team would like to look into a school garden using new garden boxes
- Great opportunity for students and there is an unused space on the property that would work well for the school garden
- Many different grants that Garden Team can look into to help with costs
- Would be looking for a contribution from school council (to be determined)

Proposed space and potential layout for garden



Motion for the VH Garden Team to explore a VH school garden Jennifer Christopher, second Hajra Hafeez

8. Question and Answer – Penny & Rick

- Are there any staffing changes at VH?
 - Covered in VH updates (above)
 - Not able to share info about teachers going on or coming back from leaves due for privacy reasons
- How have enrolment numbers changed since last meeting?
 - Covered in VH updates (above)
- How long are in-class students expected to be on-line learning? With remote learning continuing until at least Feb 10th, could classes start back in school mid-week?
 - Waiting for guidance from Ministry and School Board
- Are there a lot of students requesting to change their mode of learning?
 - Covered in VH updates (above)
- Will the deadline be extended from January 29?
 - No the deadline won't be extended
- Will there be plans for another reorganization?
 - Covered in VH updated
- Any info on the grade 7 & 8 vaccines that would usually take place at school by a public health nurse?
 - Reached out to public health but haven't heard back, imagine they have been overwhelmed, vaccines may end up taking place in grade 9 to be confirmed

Next meeting will be Thursday February 25th 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
Thank you for your support!

Financial Summary for Jan 2021

- *Motion to approve \$2600 of school council funds to be used towards COVID expenses*
- *Motion to accept \$16,153 as the balance going forward for available school council funds (the \$2600 is already accounted for in this amount)*