

School Community Council (SCC) Meeting Minutes



Date: October 3, 2023

Attendees: Ryan Pittman, Michel Jackson-Stewart, Mara Clarke, Lisa wishropp, Jennifer Thompson, Vanessa Morgan, Gina Cockfield, Stephanie Randolph, najla merheb, Nicole lebrun, Brintha Chanthirakumar, Alisha Noormohamed, Kiana Holder, Anushka Walgama, Trishna Radhakrishnan, Sorrelle Stinson, Avinash (Navin) Singh, Nivetha Navaneethan, Hina Haris, Vineela Nuthakki, Aliya Philip, Sanazt Sadozai, Akinniyi Ojo, Promise Ojo, Adrienne Coughlin

Regrets: n/a

Meeting Chair: R. Pittman (prior to electing SCC Chair)

Agenda Item	Discussion
1. Land Acknowledgement	Read by Ryan Pitmtan
2. Meeting Norms	Ryan reviewed the format for each meeting and expectations of those in attendance
3. Elections and voting	- Those in attendance and virtually were given time to complete their nomination form to be a voting member of the SCC this year. - Congratulations to: Anushka Walgama being elected as SCC Chair, Jennifer Thompson as SCC Treasurer and Aliya Philip as SCC Secretary for the 2023-2024 school year.
4. Principal's Report	- First month of school is complete! Ryan discussed the great start to the first few weeks of school. - We had start-of-year assemblies with all students in grades 1-8 (3 assemblies!) - Plans are in place to hold another assembly in the near future as class changes have occurred. - New drop-off routines - Positive feedback was received from parents over the last few weeks in regards to the new routine. This new routine ensures that the safe arrival of the students onto the school property is achieved with minimal confusion between parent/guardian and school staff - Cell phone policy - Policy was discussed. Message to students across the school is that cell phone usage only occurs under teacher supervision and direction. Cell phones are not to be used in shared public spaces (ie – washrooms, hallways, outdoors at recess...) - If students are unable to follow the school cell phone policy a letter, regarding appropriate use of cellphones, will be sent home - If anyone has questions about the policy or cell phone use, feel free to contact your student's educator and/or the office - Lunch times for students (eat first, outside; outside, eat second) - Lunch expectations: students in their own classrooms, eating their lunches

School Community Council (SCC) Meeting Minutes



- Approximately half the students have lunch first then go outdoors while the other half of the students spend the first half of their lunch outside and then return to their classrooms for lunch.
 - Yellow posters were created by all classes and posted in the classroom outlining lunch time expectations (ie – staying in the classroom while eating)
 - Encourage going home, if possible
 - For those students who can go home, this will allow them time to disconnect, take a break and have a hot lunch.
 - Students are asked to remain off property for the entirety of the lunch hour
- Lots of extra-curricular activities
 - many practices, lots of clubs happening
- Curriculum Night was amazing!
 - Night was a success! Families were seen enjoying the work of the students in the first week. The halls were filled with laughter and smiles all evening.
 - Ryan and Michel expressed the positive feedback that was received after curriculum night
- Lots of new staff and Interviews
 - we have lots of new staff
 - stay tuned for information on parent/guardian-teacher interviews
- Public Health Nurse visited the school; spoke with grade 7's about vaccinations coming up
- Terry Fox Run:
 - Run was a success. All students who participate in this cause had fun running laps for the Terry Fox Foundation
 - The school raised about \$1675 with the Toonie for Terry campaign.
- Orange Shirt day
 - Observed on September 20, 2023. Students learned about the relevance of Orange Shirt day and Reconciliation for Indigenous Peoples in Canada
- Re-organization is complete
 - Approximately 40 students were affected with the shuffle due to Ministry regulations on class size
 - A big thank you to the students and families who were affected during the re-organization for their understanding
- Student Council is up and running!
 - Great opportunity for students to be a part of to work on their public speaking skills while working with different sets of skills and opinions.
 - They will work on effectively collaborating with others and use empathy to guide them in decision making.
 - Student council creates an environment where students can meet regularly to collaborate on student-led initiatives.
- Check out our social media account!
 - <https://www.instagram.com/violadesmondps/>
- Popcorn day this Thursday!

School Community Council (SCC) Meeting Minutes



	○ Money raised will be used to add value to the school (ie – school trips, school bus, school activities...) ● Pizza days are coming soon ○ Information to be sent to families this week ○ Pizza lunch will occur on Wednesdays commencing October 18, 2023 ○ Pizza orders to be purchased from School Cash Online ○ New students will need to register with their student number ● Snack program is coming soon ○ Practical learning program (PLP) students will be overseeing the snack program this year. They are excited about engaging with students. Bins with non-perishable snacks will be delivered to all classes where students are free to access the snack bin throughout the day, if desired. ● DDSB Literacy Team is at Viola Desmond! ● Fire drills and Lockdown practice ○ These drills will occur in the next few weeks. Further information to be provided soon. ○ The school is responsible for conducting one lock down procedure drill and two fire drill evacuations per calendar year. ● Extra-curriculars happening now and coming up!: ○ Flag football, junior choir, cross country, chess club, math club, Student Council
5. Current financials	● Balance of \$8766.73 heading into the 2023-2024 school year
6. Fundraising Ideas	● This will be discussed at next month's SCC meeting
7. Meeting adjourned.. next Meeting	● Tuesday November 7, 2023 6:30pm
New Action Items	● Ryan to reach out to the DDSB about safe tech presentation - Beneficial to involve the older students to foster safety knowledge and reinforcements with extra conversations on the topic ● Ryan/Michel to communicate the lunch time process with the lunch volunteers that students have to remain home for lunch for the entire 60 minutes